

The Vision

From the Pastor's Desk

Prentis McGoldrick
Senior Pastor



Twenty-one and a half years ago, you called me to be your pastor. At that time, I was fifty years old. I still had some punk in me. I thought I was ready for the task. During the past two decades you have been extremely gracious to me. You have forgiven my failures and given me credit for good things that I had very little to do with. You are a special congregation.

Now, as I approach seventy-three years of age, I realize that I am not able to do what I once did. Visiting members has dropped off. Caring for the sick has been inadequate. Each sermon takes longer and longer to prepare. (In fact, everything takes longer. Eventually, I will spend an infinite amount of time to do absolutely nothing!) This is because I am old and do not have the energy to do all these things as you need.

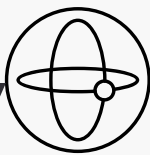
Thus, I am announcing my retirement date as April 4, 2027. This date is beyond my twenty-second anniversary here at the church and is the week after Easter. I do not want to be mentioned on my Lord's Resurrection Day.

Until you find a new pastor, I will be willing to perform funerals and weddings (if available) in the interim. That will stop the day a new pastor is installed.

I still believe Thalia Lynn will experience revival. It is evident that it will not be with me as the pastor. I believe the church has a future beyond what I can believe or think. God bless you all!



NEXT GEN Ministry Momentum



Peggy Peek
Executive Pastor of Ministries

WE ARE ALL THEOLOGIAN

Everyone who thinks about God is a theologian. I read this idea in a book that Prentis is having the pastoral staff and elders read called Moneyball Church: Beyond Institutional Reign by Brian Williams. He says that even though many of us may not consider ourselves to be theologians, we are theologians. This idea made me consider what makes a good theologian?

Possessing all of the right beliefs doesn't define us as a good theologian. If we are not able to help others become disciples with correct beliefs we are ineffective theologians. How can we help others mature into good theologians or disciples? Brian Williams says "Perhaps we need to view theology more as a garden that grows good fruit and vegetables than a library of orthodox doctrines and dogma." In a garden, you have to cultivate the soil, make sure the seeds germinate, spend time pulling out the encroaching weeds without damaging the crops, and pick the fruit and vegetables just as they ripen so they don't rot on the vine.

What are some practical ways we can embrace our need for a correct view (or theology) of God with our need to be become followers who are becoming conformed to God's image who are making disciples (theologians). First, we need to be students of the Bible and students of our culture. Second, we need to be willing to become gardeners of the fields we have been entrusted with by God. For too many us, we limit our garden to a small flower pot we call church. We are to be in the world, spreading the good news in the cultivated soil of our community. And third, we need to be willing to put on our gardening gloves and remove the weeds that strangle our lives and the lives of those whom we are investing in. Gardening is a participatory sport not something we can leave to others—if we desire for God to consider us His theologians who are making disciples.

May your fruit, vegetable or flower garden be rich with the nutrients of what a good theologian needs.

2ND MONDAY OF EACH
MONTH AT 10:00AM

NEXT SESSION IS ON
OCTOBER 12TH



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.
October 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th

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

OCTOBER 15, 2026 AT 6:00PM
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

ARE YOU TRAINING YOUR REPLACEMENT?

The apostle Paul grew up under the training of the finest religious leaders of his day before his conversion to Christianity – “a Hebrew of Hebrews”, he described himself. After his experience with God that transformed his life, he was then under the leadership of Barnabas. The beneficiary of a powerful legacy of mentorship, it comes as no surprise that he offered the same relationships to others after his maturation in the faith, including both Timothy and Titus as detailed in Scripture. Timothy, whom he described as his “true child in the faith” (1 Timothy 1:2), was evidently close to his heart, and became a trusted peer over time. Paul prepared him for the task of spreading the Gospel across the nations, as he himself had done for many years. Yet, even as he was raising him up to fulfill his own task, Paul encouraged Timothy by saying, “You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others” (2 Timothy 2:1-2). He is asking for Timothy to develop new witnesses of the Gospel into teachers of the Word.

Are you yourself actively mentoring a young believer in your own life? If not, perhaps now is a good time to start! Seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit to direct you towards those with less experience in the faith than yourself, and ask for discernment in whom you could make a great partnership with. My prayer is that each of us would find opportunities to invite young believers into the ministries of our lives, to place our trust in the God who works all things together for good, and to empower them to fulfill the important work of evangelism and discipleship, though it may be “easier” in the short term to accomplish ourselves. We are so fortunate that in our own failings, many questions, and doubts, the Lord still invites us into His holy work. Let's do the same for those around us – inviting them in to fulfill the tasks of ministry, and to in doing so, to experience greater love for and intimacy with their Father.

TLBC YOUTH MINISTRY

FALL RETREAT

CAMP PIANKATANK

FRIDAY OCT 16 (5:00 PM) TO
SUNDAY OCT 18 (12:00 PM), 2026

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



THALIA LYNN BAPTIST CHURCH

YOUTH BIBLE STUDY

With Natalie Cox

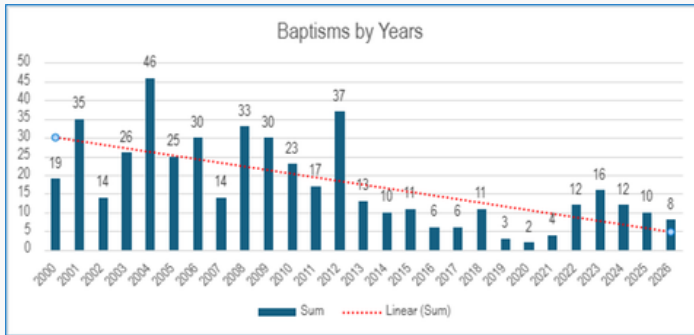
WEDNESDAYS AT 5:30PM

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



The XP Corner: Baptisms Tell Our Story

David Doyle
Executive Pastor of Administration



The chart reflects the trend in baptisms at our church from 2000 through 2026 (year to date) – a total of 27 years (inclusive). If we were to go back even further in time, the declining trend in baptisms would look even more severe. The number of baptisms in a church generally indicates its evangelistic vitality and ability to reach new people. Statistically for our current church size (about 300 each week in worship services), we should be baptizing close to 30 people every year.

Real church growth comes from outreach outside the walls of our church. This translates to baptisms. And, while high baptism numbers do not necessarily guarantee long-term church health or deep discipleship, low numbers, over multiple years, are most assuredly indicative of a church in decline.

A low baptism ratio shows that a church is not actively converting non-believers in its community. Rather its hope rests on importing existing Christians from other churches.

A low baptism ratio points to an inactive, inward-focused church culture that does not connect well in the community. A multi-year decrease in baptisms signals a church where members do not care to share their faith. Kingdom growth comes from sharing our faith.

A multi-year decreasing trend in baptism numbers offers a much more accurate picture of a church's health than a single year's data, as it filters out temporary anomalies. It means that the church is not adapting its outreach methods successfully (provided it has any) to remain relevant to its changing surrounding culture and opportunities.

Declining baptism numbers often reflect aging congregations with fewer young adult families with children. Look around our own church for evidence of this.

A multi-year drop in baptisms is one of the clearest signs that a church has turned inward, prioritizing both its own culture and the comfort of existing members over outreach. It highlights an urgent need for revitalization because that church has clearly lost its way.

Our baptism trend tells us our story. But our story can change if we allow God to change us into an outward-focused church that puts its priorities on bringing community to Christ.



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



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 Peskett 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.



FALL 2026 SCHEDULE

MIDWEEK UPLIFT

**WEDNESDAYS
AT 6:00 P.M.**



BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER MEETING ROOM 63

BAPTISM SUNDAY

Baptisms will be held on October 18, 2026
Help us welcome the new members of our Church Family.



STATE
MISSIONS
OFFERING

HOPE RISING

...THE HOPE TO WHICH GOD HAS CALLED YOU

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

DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING
INFORMATIONAL MEETING
ON OCTOBER 4TH AT 5PM
IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

SOUTHEASTERN MYELOMA NETWORKING GROUP

Saturday, Oct 17th at 10:00 am Room 63



For more information
contact Brenda Riggs

www.thalialynn.com

Constitution Proposed Change: Article V - Amendments: changing "The Vision" to "monthly newsletter". This was presented at the July business meeting to be voted on at the next scheduled business meeting. (November 15 at 4:30 pm in the Sanctuary)

- Article V - Amendments: These Articles may be amended or altered with concurrence of a 2/3 vote of the Church members present at any regular or called meeting, provided such amendments be given announcement at regular worship service for a period of one-month before action and are presented in writing at least once in the monthly newsletter or another mode of correspondence sent to each member's available home address.

By-laws Proposed Changes: A copy of the proposed changes were presented at the July business meeting to be voted on at the next scheduled business meeting. A copy of these changes is available for review in the church office.

TLBC JOY MINISTRY

GIVE THANKS LUNCHEON

Thursday, November 12th @ 11:30



Golden Corral
400 S Independence Blvd.
SAVE THE DATE

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

CHURCH 101

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

LED BY DAVID DOYLE

Sunday, October 11, 2026

9:45 am - 10:45 am
Room 61



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

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Join the Christmas Choir

Christmas Choir has begun preparing for the holiday season. You are invited to join in the musical fun. Rehearsals are on Wednesdays at 7 Pm and training is Oct. 4 after the 11:00 am Worship Service. Please contact the Bret Woodall at bret@mytowncenterchurch.com for more info.