

Thalia Lynn Baptist Church

at Town Center

The Vision

March 2019

Jesus gave us the Church's mission: He said we are to make disciples. A disciple is someone who endeavors to be like his master. Therefore, we are to be conformed and helping people conform into the image of Christ. This mission is not optional.

However, our mission is more than taking people who are willing to sign up for discipleship classes. Making disciples requires that we approach people who lack any belief in Christ to encourage them to become fully functioning disciples. Our goal is to start with people who have varying degrees of agreement and disagreement with us and help them join us as members of God's family who are able to encourage others to become disciples of Christ. I believe there are five steps to this process.

Beginning step: Introduce ourselves to our community. This is done with concerts, fish fries, VBS, Fall Festival, Christmas Eve services, etc. The goal is to let our community know that we care for them and want to know them. The community must have a positive feeling about our church if they are to give us permission to take the next step.

Step two: Involve people. This may be done by encouraging as many people as possible to join us in what we are doing. They may join us in feeding the hungry, providing toys for children at Christmas, helping with Mega Sunday Fellowships, helping with the fish fry, etc. Involved people create relationships with others. We want to get to know people so well that they see themselves as a part of us as we see them as a part of them. If we do this right "them" disappears.

Step three: Engage people. It is at this point that people make a step of commitment. They join Sunday School, they may join the church, they may make a commitment to Christ, they may get baptized, etc. This has been the stopping point for most churches. However, at this point they aren't prepared to act with their spiritual gifts to create new ministries the church needs. They have made a commitment to go with us.

Step four: Educate people. This is where my "teacher" comes out. Every teachers' lesson plans needed to include a behavioral objective. Ours should be no different. We need to educate people so that they act differently than when we first started educating them. We will encourage people to employ their spiritual gifts as they continue to grow in Christ through discipleship classes, seminars, outreach activities, etc. This education is not just sitting in the classroom learning. It is going out and learning from experience, too.

Final step: Activate the people. We give them encouragement and permission to start their own disciple making ministries. They may start their own mission project that involves others. They may reach out to people with a home Bible study. They may use their spiritual gifts to start things we would have never have thought of. At this point, they are disciple makers themselves.

Jesus said that the harvest is already great. He said that He just needed workers. What do you say? Let's join Him.

Prentis McGoldrick

Please join me in congratulating Gary Tutt and Bret Woodall for having completed significant longevity milestones at TLBC during the month of February. Gary completed his 25th year with us; Bret compete his 10th. We are grateful to each for their service to God here with our church. Be sure to express your appreciation to each. Each of the two brings his own set of gifts and unique service to our church and we are better off because of them.

“ The Upper Room”

There is much excitement happening in “The Upper Room” at TLBC! Where is the Upper Room? This is the new name for the second-floor youth hall. Plans are in progress rejuvenating the department with exciting, colorful and inspirational decor and furniture. The rejuvenation plans include new paint, carpet/flooring, window treatments, cabinets, furniture and restrooms.

The youth are a part of the planning too! They are helping to organize and rearrange the area, participating in the selection of paint and carpet colors. Several of the youth have artistic talent and plan to paint artful designs on the hallway walls.

We want to provide our youth department with inspirational classrooms, a praise band assembly area and a functional social gathering room for fellowship, food, events and game activities. A real gathering place to attract and grow our youth ministry program, enhance their discipleship development and support the church vision of “Bringing Relationships to Life”. *Proverbs 22:6 - Start children off on the way they should go and even when they are old, they will not turn from it.*

A planning committee* has identified all the needs, developed a budget and begun the initial infrastructure electrical/plumbing work needed. In addition to the planning committee, many church members have volunteered their professional expertise services to reduce the labor costs.

We hope you will feel the excitement too and support this much needed rejuvenation for our youth as an investment in the strategic growth of our church and ultimately for the Lord’s Kingdom growth. Funds will be needed to support the new carpet/flooring, furniture and smart screen TVs and to install a chair lift for any injured/handicap youth to go up the 19 stairs to the Upper Room. More to follow on funding what is not being donated, when we have paid off what the church still owes on the Restroom Renovation Project recently completed.

If you are inspired to volunteer with painting or to support the funding needed for the glory of God and His place of worship, please contact me or any of the individuals on the planning committee.

Darleen Mastin

*Planning Committee: Darleen Mastin/Shane Faircloth (leaders), David Doyle, Charlie Hurd, Jim Clifton, Anne Orwig, Steve McNaughton, Chris/Trish Cress, Gary Tutt, Antonio Tutt.

REALM News You Can Really Use

To use REALM most effectively you need a REALM account and the REALM Connect App. Contact the church office for an account. On opening the App, you will find several icons at the bottom of the screen that, if pressed, will navigate you to different REALM pages. To look at your profile, press on the “More” icon and then press “Profile.” On your profile page, any field with a pencil shown to the right of it is information that you can update yourself. For example, if you move, you should change your address information. Same for your e-mail address. Or phone number. Other fields too. Easy! On each edit screens you may also select how to share that field information with others. REALM was created with you in mind.

Mega Sunday Fellowship Four-Month Class Rotation Cycle

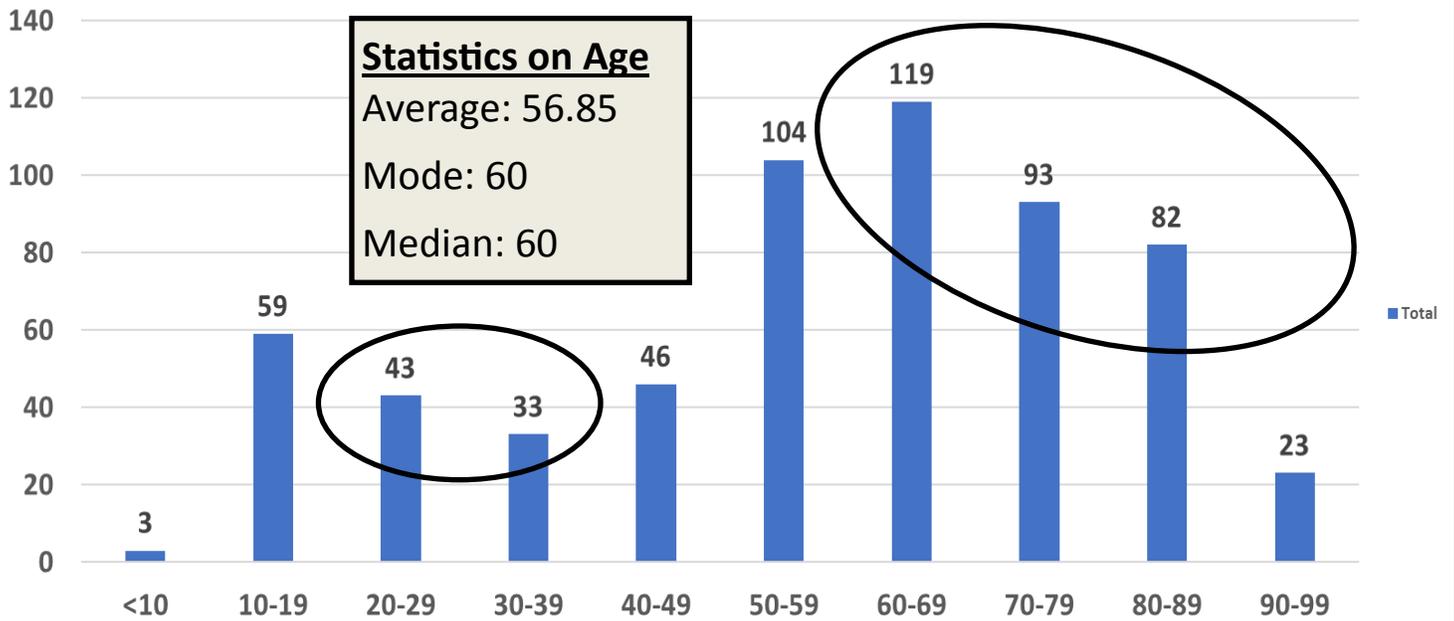
Date	Class 1	Class 2
Mar 3	Grace and Truth Class	YOUR CLASS HERE
Apr 7	Friendship Class	YOUR CLASS HERE
May 5	YOUR CLASS HERE	YOUR CLASS HERE
Jun 2	Adults Under Construction	Fellowship Class

If your class is not listed here, it is missing an opportunity to invest in a vital and rewarding service effort.

To get your class on the rotation contact David Doyle
(david@mytowncenterchurch.com).

**Are you aware that roughly one third of the TLBC membership is not enrolled in Sunday School?
Ask someone to come join you in Sunday School.**

TLBC Membership Age Distribution



(Above) Sometimes numbers not only provide statistics on what is but also suggest a strategy for moving forward to what *could* be. This chart does exactly that. Firstly, it gives insight into the strength that exists in our more senior TLBC population. The stability of our church today is due in large part to the experience and wisdom that comes with the age of our membership. Couple those facts with a Sharon Walpole and you end up with a very strong ministry that is aimed precisely at where we are strongest. (Please read Sharon's article in this edition of *The Vision*.) All good. Secondly, the chart highlights a significant gap in our TLBC population of 20-29 and 30-39 adults. This gap has an immediate effect (these adults, after all, are the child-bearing adult ages and the moms and dads of our kids and youth) as well as a longer term effect (they are, after all, the next generation of today's seniors). Unless we grow this population, it represents a huge risk for TLBC into the future. So, knowing this, what do you think we need to do to help reduce the risk to our future? Grow this population. Therein is one of our biggest challenges. Now you know, what can you do to help us grow our population of 20-29 and 30-39 adults? Do more than just think about it!

January Gains/Losses

Welcome these members:

Ashley Smith, *by letter*

Bid farewell to these members:

George Savedge, *by request*

Joyce Gunter, *by death*

Dewey Davis, *by death*

Think on This

When a church program is not aligned with the mission of the church, that program itself will turn into its own mission and undermine the church.

Restroom Payoff Update

Looking for something to do with your tax refund money? Easy! We still owe @ \$16,000.00 to fully pay off the Restroom Project. Consider it!

Publication Deadlines

Please note the following deadlines for submitting information to the church office with regards to printed publications:

Weekly Bulletin:

8:00 am on the Tuesday of the week to run

Monthly Vision and JOY Newsletter:

the 15th of the month prior

Reserve it! (Please!)

If you are planning on using a space either inside or outside the church for any purpose, you need to reserve that space in advance. The space is reserved by turning in a Facilities & Activities Reservation Request. A copy of the current form can always be found on our Web site under "Forms." The reservation form also serves as a reminder of things that you might need to help make your activity a success. Unfortunately, not everyone who turns in a request form correctly identifies what they will need in advance. This generally results in last minute crises that could otherwise have been avoided. For example, if you need a sound system set up, or if you need an Audio/Visual tech for your event, these are not last-minute things. Please help yourself and also the church staff by planning your event/activity well in advance and also by identifying up-front what you will need. There is even a place on the back of the form for a diagram on how you will need the Fellowship Hall arranged. Thank you for planning ahead!!

March 10 Church Leadership Meeting Bringing Relationships to Life— The Critical Role of Sunday School Classes in Carrying Forth the Church's Vision

In 1 Corinthians 12, the Apostle Paul beautifully illustrates how the body of Christ—the church—should be functioning with all its many parts working closely together with the same purpose in mind. Thalia Lynn's purpose is rooted in its guiding vision: "Bringing relationships to life." These four words are more than a trite phrase or some passing phase. They express the very essence of both parts of the Greatest Commandment to love God and to love others, plus the directive Christ gives his followers to go and make disciples.

"Bringing relationships to life" is all about growing in our relationship with Christ and in our relationships with others. It is all about reaching people with Christ and for Christ. At the core of this ongoing process we find a large and vitally important group: our Sunday School classes. And because Thalia Lynn's Sunday School classes, led by a host of committed teachers and other class officers, do play such a huge role in the "big picture" of what we are about as a church, the staff ministers have put together a special lunch meeting for these key leaders on Sunday, March 10, at 12:15 in the fellowship hall.

Although our time together will be brief (no more than one hour), we plan to be covering a lot of pertinent information on such topics as class in-reach and outreach, upcoming church-sponsored community events, our visitor assimilation process and exactly how the Sunday School classes figure into these things in the context of Thalia Lynn's guiding vision.

If you are a Sunday School teacher (all age groups!) or a class outreach/in-reach leader, please plan to come. Lunch reservations need to be made no later than March 5—just call the church office or send us an email. This will be both an informative and exciting time together! Don't miss it!

Annual World Missions Offering Explained

Don't confuse our Annual World Missions Offering with our World Missions Giving, which is how we contribute 5% of our TLBC budget offerings to our cooperative missions efforts. The Annual World Missions Offering is a *designated offering* that is emphasized annually in December and January for the specific purpose of supporting mission-based organizations. The Annual World Missions Offering is not used to fund the TLBC budget. While the offering is intended to be taken annually, the fund is open for contributions throughout the year. In July 2018, the church voted to revise how the Annual Missions Offering is distributed: 45% to the BGAV (Baptist General Association of Virginia); 10% to the BNOG (Bridge Network of Churches); 15% to the Alma Hunt Missions Offering; 15% to the Lottie Moon Missions Offering; and 15% to the Annie Armstrong Missions Offering. So, now you are in the know!

Significant Happenings, Next Several Months

Through March 6: Homeless Week

Mar 3: Mega Sunday Fellowship

Mar 7: JOY Lunch Bunch

Mar 9: Christian Readers & Authors Festival

Mar 10: Sunday School Training

Mar 10: Bible Study (Youth)

Mar 11: Ballroom Dance Class (Rumba)

Mar 16: Leprechaun Hunt (Youth)

Mar 17: Chili Cookoff Fundraiser (Youth)

Mar 17: Church Council, Called Business Meeting,
Deacons Meeting

Mar 21: JOY Dinner

Mar 23: Heartsaver Course

Mar 30: Easter Community Outreach (Aragona)

Mar 30: ODU Symphony Concert

Mar 31: March Food Madness (Kids)

Mar 31: Bible Study (Youth)

Apr 2: PAHS/ODU Combined Concert

Apr 7: Mega Sunday Fellowship

Apr 11: JOY Dinner

Apr 13: Church Work Day

Apr 14: Palm Sunday

Apr 15 - 17: Holy Weeks Evening Meals/Services

Apr 18: Maundy Thursday Service

Apr 19: Good Friday Service

April 21: Easter Sunday

Apr 25: PAHS Band Spring Concert

Apr 28: Deacon's Meeting

May - All month: Mobilize in May (a church-wide
emphasis)

May 2: National Day of Prayer/Lunch

May 4: Car Wash Fundraiser (Youth)

May 4: Mother/Daughter Tea (WINGS)

May 5: Mega Sunday Fellowship

May 5: Variety Show and Dinner (Youth Fundraiser)

May 9: Nonagenarian Tea

May 11: Community Outreach (Aragona)

May 13: Ballroom Dance Class (Cha-Cha)

May 16: JOY Dinner

May 17: Teacher Appreciation Picnic

May 19: Church Council, Deacon's Meeting

May 26: Air Force Band

May 30: JOY Game Day

Jun 2: Mega Sunday Fellowship

WMU News.

I am pleased to invite you to the 5th Annual Christian Readers & Authors Festival on Saturday, March 9th from 10 am to 5 pm! This event is free and open to the public.

The festival has expanded to include programs designed uniquely for readers. There will be seminars, time to meet with authors, and a performance by the Celebrate Jesus Ministries drama team (as seen on YouTube).

Host Christine Tate feels called by God to connect our community with local Christian authors, and to support and educate writers from a Christian perspective. If you or someone you know is a published author and would like to register for a display table, please contact Christine at wrtate83@gmail.com for more details.

We are also seeking volunteers to help with the festival. If you are interested in helping contact Jessica Snook.

We hope that you can come join us for this exciting day!

Many thanks,
Jessica Snook, WMU/Women on Mission
womenonmission.tlbc@gmail.com

Ballroom Dance Class Schedule

The Rumba:

Mar 11, 18, 25; April 1, 8, 22, 29; May 6

The Cha-Cha:

May 13, 20, 27; Jun 3, 10; Jul 1, 8, 15

The Waltz:

Sep 9, 16, 23, 30; Oct 7, 14, 21, 28

If you are thinking about joining a ministry team, why not consider that the Ballroom Dance Class could be just the type of ministry that are looking to be part of. You know, the dance class isn't just about the dancing. It is also about developing relationships with folks that are looking for answers that we already have. When we are intentional about our relationships, God will give us opportunities to share the Good News. He will also give us the words to say.

The XP Corner

In my previous Navy life I spent a lot of time aboard ships and submarines. Many years were spent either riding on the sea or under it, depending on which type of Navy vessel I was assigned to. Nine of 26 years in that career were spent on "Sea Duty" and much of that time was spent away from home. In that Navy setting, two terms became very familiar to me: "underway" and "making way." These terms are related but have very distinct meanings. "Underway" means that the ship is floating freely and is not "connected" to land anymore, either by lines to a pier or by chain to an anchor underfoot. "Making way" means that a ship is not just "underway" (floating freely) but also that its propulsion system is moving it ahead through the water. As a ship moves forward through the water, water moves aft across the rudder. While "making way," the pressure of water against the rudder makes it possible to turn a ship to starboard (right) or to port (left). This is called steerage. Without water running across it, a rudder is nothing more than a useless appendage that has no impact on where the ship goes. No steerage. If simply "underway" and *not* "making way" the ship's heading and track are at the mercy of its environment (wind, tide, current, shoals). If "underway" *and* "making way," the ship's heading and track can be controlled from the ship's bridge by turning the ship's wheel (thereby changing the angle of the rudder) towards the desired heading. There is an equivalence here somewhere for churches. Ours too. Steerage is only possible in a church that is moving ahead in its own "water." Only at that point does where a church's "rudder" is positioned begin to impact where the church is headed. "Engineman, all engines ahead full." Helmsman, mind your rudder!!! // The coffee is hot . . drop by anytime. Aye.

David Doyle

Holy Week Services Pre-View

Holy week begins on Sunday, April 14 and ends on Resurrection Sunday, April 21. This year's Holy Week will be robust with opportunities to remember and celebrate the passion, death, and resurrection of Christ. The service each day will focus on the Biblical events associated with the respective days leading up to Christ's death, burial and resurrection.

- Sunday, Apr 14 - Palm Sunday Worship Services

- Monday, Apr 15 - Soup and Sandwiches starting at 6:15pm followed by Holy Week services at 7:00pm

- Tuesday, Apr 16 - Soup and Sandwiches starting at 6:15pm followed by Holy Week services at 7:00pm

- Wednesday, Apr 17 - Soup and Sandwiches starting at 6:15pm followed by Holy Week services at 7:00pm

- Thursday, Apr 18 - Maundy Thursday service at 7:00pm

- Friday, Apr 19 - Good Friday service at 7:00pm

- Sunday, Apr 21 - Resurrection Sunday worship services

Building/Facility Priorities for 2019

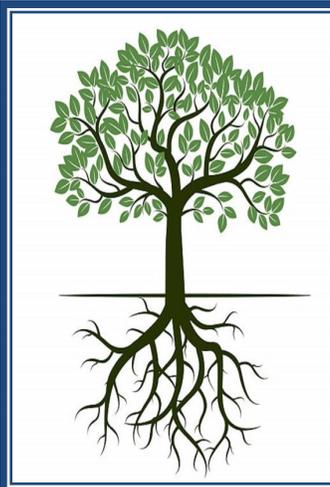
- Pay off the restroom renovation project.
- Renovate Youth Hall
- Chapel (paint/new flooring)
- Renovate the Fellowship Hall
- Modernize the kitchen
- Magnetize all main exterior doors
- Finish switch-over to LED lighting of the main entrance parking lot
- Replace the Music Suite AC unit and heat exchanger
- Install emergency alert system throughout church
- Replace the flooring in the Library

Remaining Church Workdays in 2019

- Apr 13
- Jun 15
- Aug 24
- Oct 5
- Nov 16

Team Opportunity

The Building and Grounds Committee invites you to become part of an "on call" team of men and women volunteers that can be contacted to assist, as available, with future immediate needs as well as planned projects. To get your name added to this list of volunteers, please contact Jim Clifton.



The JOY Ministry seeks to serve members of our congregation and our community who are in the “second half” of life. Many have raised their children, and are now involved in their grandchildren’s lives. Some are “parenting” their parents, helping them navigate through health issues, retirement homes, and end-of-life decisions. Some are contemplating retirement and wondering if they have planned well enough while others have retired and wonder “what shall I do now?” We believe that this time of our lives can be filled with JOY as we abide in Christ and seek to bear fruit that honors Him.

JOY Ministry

Seeking ...

to know and honor Christ,

to minister to others

and to finish well.

Our name includes the acrostic J-O-Y. Our goal is to provide opportunities in our church and community to support these three areas:

J ~ Jesus: Seeking a vibrant, deeper relationship with Christ through worship, Bible study, and prayer

O ~ Others: Fellowshiping with and ministering to others

Y ~ Yourself: Implementing positive choices to support spiritual, physical, mental, and emotional health in each individual

Each of our activities is generally focused on Jesus, Others, and Yourself, whether Bible study, devotions, JOY Dinners, Lunch Bunch outings, service projects, JOY Singers rehearsals, visits to area retirement facilities, exercise classes, and so on.

The seniors are the backbone of Thalia Lynn. Many have served and have given sacrificially to build and support the body of Christ here and to provide and maintain the facility we now enjoy. Many serve on committees, help maintain the garden and facilities, help prepare meals, sing in choirs, unload and distribute food through the Food Pantry, teach Sunday School and Bible Study classes . . . We have a wonderful JOY Council which meets monthly to plan our activities and to keep them in line with our focus.

The best is yet to be! We would love to have you join us in this exciting adventure of the second half of this wonderful life God has blessed us with!

P.S. There are no JOY Ministry age requirements. Activities are open to all who would like to participate!

Sharon Walpole, Minister to Senior Adults

Join us for ...

Mega Sunday Fellowship Sunday, March 3

- Traditional Service at 8:30 am
- Mega Breakfast Fellowship at 9:20 am
 - Sunday School at 10:10 am
- Contemporary Service at 11:10 am

Invite a friend and come join us!

REALM can help Sunday School classes know who in the class has missed. How? Under your groups, you can see a list of participants. See the name of someone who has been absent? Realm will not make the phone call for you, but REALM is a great prompter. Start using REALM to help make Sunday School communications easier and invite those who are missing, back.

If you are chairman of a church committee, part of your responsibility is to ensure that the church office gets a copy of your committee minutes.

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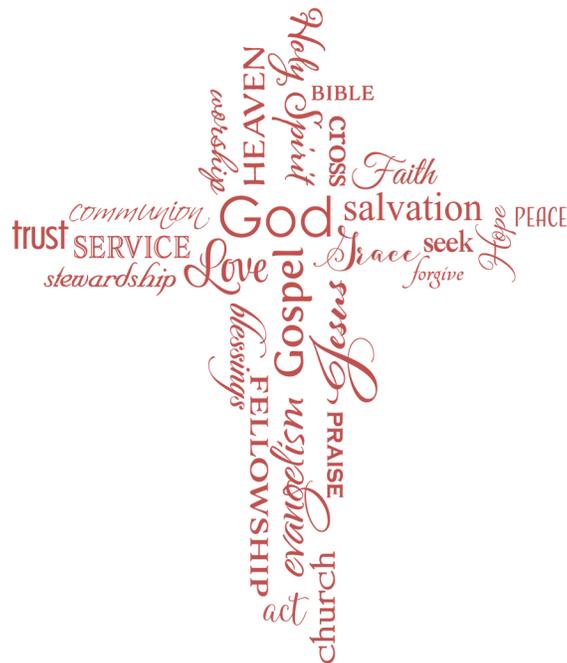
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Get Ready for Easter Week!



April 14 - 21