

Thalia Lynn Baptist Church

at Town Center

The Vision

April 2019

Each month we have a Mega Fellowship Sunday. Each of those Sundays bring us new visitors. Some say these visitors only come for the breakfast. They don't. I don't go down to furniture stores because they have breakfast. I don't go to a car dealer because they are serving hotdogs. People don't come to church because we have breakfast. *They come because someone invited them.* The breakfast is just something we can invite them to. 80% of people who don't attend any church said they would probably come if someone invited them.

People are more likely to come if we invite them to join us. The breakfast allows us to do that. They would be as likely to come if we asked them to meet us outside the church and attend a worship service but that is a harder invitation. Everyone eats. Everyone doesn't worship. I encourage you to ask people to join you for breakfast when we have Mega Fellowship Sundays.

Those who attend the fellowship are likely to meet someone new. This past Mega Fellowship Sunday we had fourteen first-time guests who filled out information indicating they were here for the first time. Most first-time guests wait several weeks before they fill out anything. That doesn't mean that we are sure we had more than fourteen first-time guests, but we certainly could have. Each one of them came because someone invited them. (Not one of them said they came because they saw it on the sign.)

Some people cannot wait until 9:20 to eat breakfast. There are medical and other reasons that may prevent eating breakfast at that time. Everyone can join those who are eating breakfast in the fellowship hall. A church that fellowships together grows closer together. I, personally, pick up something but have usually already had my breakfast. I am not there to eat breakfast but to grow closer to others. So, even if you have already eaten, come join the fellowship. You will find others who have already eaten but are friendly enough to make new friends.

I hope to see you at Mega Fellowship Sunday . . . and as Gene Walters used to say, "Bring a friend."

Prentis McGoldrick

Women's Ministry Opportunities

Ladies of Thalia Lynn, have you wondered about opportunities to grow in your discipleship? Or how to get involved in ministry or mission projects? Women's ministries at Thalia Lynn Baptist Church offers opportunities for individuals to join with others in participating in a wide array of ministry-oriented activities, all geared toward the common goal of equipping women toward maturity in Christ through fellowship with one another, serving in the church, sharing Jesus with others and being involved in missions both locally and around the world.

Information on these opportunities are now aggregated on the Thalia Lynn website under the Women's Ministry heading and in a published brochure. Ministry examples include Women on Missions (WoM), WINGS (Women in God's Service), Ruth Ministry (visiting the homebound, Yarning for Him (making blankets and hats) and many more.

Take a moment to browse the website or pick up a brochure at church. We would love to help you engage in an opportunity that matches your gifts and talents and provides you the opportunity to grow and to serve others.

Darleen Mastin
Deacon Chair and Women's Ministry

WWU UPDATE

Our 2019 Christian Readers and Authors Festival was a great success! We had over 150 attendees. Thanks to all who volunteered their time and baking skills!

We are making our WMU/Women on Mission agenda for the spring and fall. So far the possibilities include: education and promotion of the Annie Armstrong offering for North American Missions; Yarning for Him - Saturday mornings for learning to crochet/knit winter hats for missions and for social "yarning" time; additional outreach to local foster children; more Senior Vacation Bible School days

We welcome your suggestions, assistance and support of these possibilities and others. Please join us in praying that Thalia Lynn will grow as a missions-focused congregation. These projects have the primary goal of using community outreach to fulfill the Great Commission. Reaching people in their need shares the love of Christ and opens doors for evangelism. Join us!
Jessica Snook

Support to Mega Fellowship Sunday

Date	Class 1	Class 2
Apr 7	Friendship Class	YOUR CLASS HERE
May 5	Fishermen Class (?)	YOUR CLASS HERE
Jun 2	Adults Under Construction	Fellowship Class
Jul 7	Grace and Truth Class	YOUR CLASS HERE
Aug 4	Friendship Class	YOUR CLASS HERE

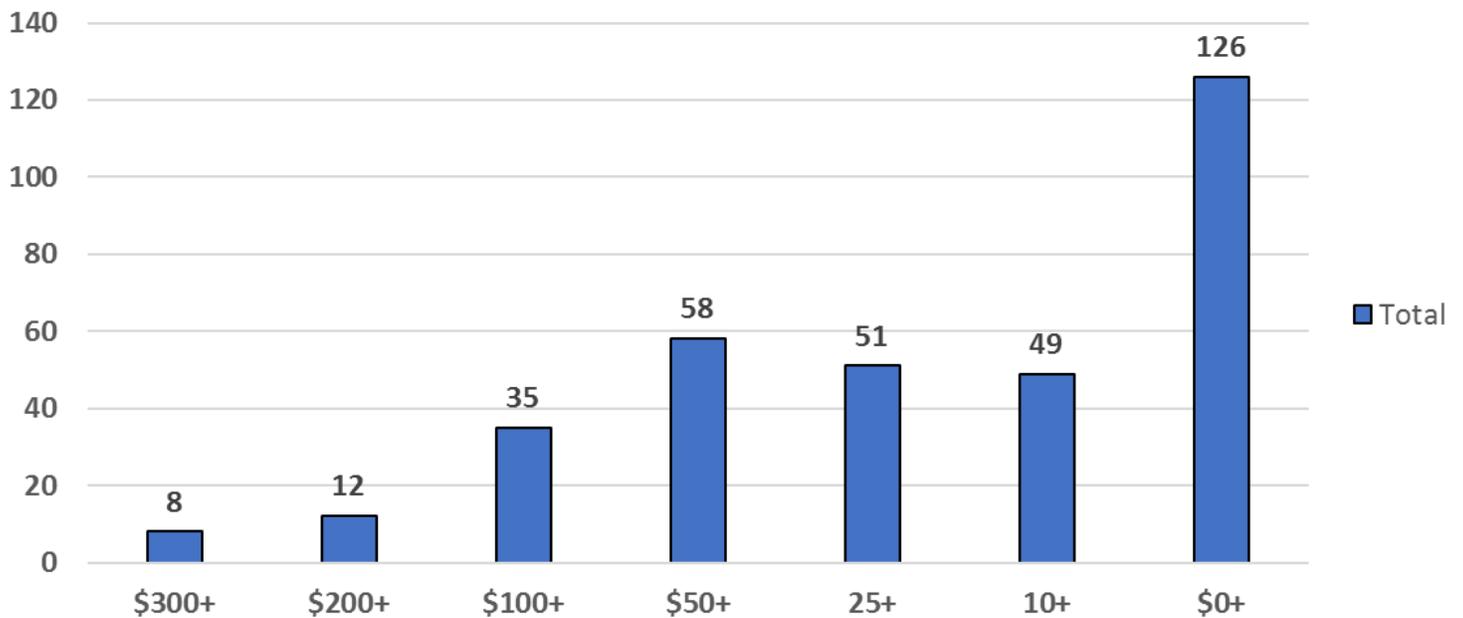
The class support goal for Mega Fellowship Sunday is to have a total of eight classes paired up by twos, and on a four-month rotation. We are getting close to reaching that goal, but we are still three classes short of that goal

Church Security Note

If you have a gathering or meeting at the church, and it is outside of normal church operating hours, you, or someone in your group, is responsible for being the "gatekeeper" for access to the church. Please do not "wedge" the door open. Rather, station someone at the door until all of the people attending your group or event have arrived. Church security is something we are all responsible for. Thanks in advance.

2018 Budget Giving in Review

2018 Weekly Budget Giving by Giving Level



For those interested in the story behind the story, here is a behind-the-scenes look at the budget giving numbers for calendar year 2018. The total amount received was slightly more than \$991K, which fell short of expenses by about \$14K. Giving in 2018 was up moderately over 2017, but so were total expenses. In 2018 there were 339 contributing “units” that made any level of contribution to the budget needs. (A contributing “unit” is defined as either a single- or a multiple-member household. The top 36 contributing units (roughly 10% of all units) contributed 50% of the budget income. The chart shows contributing units, broken out by their respective levels of weekly giving. For example, there were 58 units that contributed between \$50 and \$100 each week; 126 of the 339 units contributed between up to \$10 per week. The average unit contribution was \$56.00 per week. Not included in this chart are what we call “plate contributions,” — cash contributions that have no name attached. “Plate contributions” for all of 2018 amounted to almost \$3,500.00.

One of our objectives in the new Vision is to make you better informed about the opportunities and challenges that we face together as a church. Sometimes, statistical data, analysis, and trending is useful in helping to get a necessary point across. Numbers can sometimes bring context to what would otherwise be an otherwise difficult reality.

Church Workdays in 2019

Mark your calendar and make plans to join us!

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

February Gains/Losses

Welcome to our newest members

- * Bill Burnside
- * Cheryl Foster
- * Robert & Doris Reid

Farewell to these member

In loving memory of these members

Did you know that you can use REALM to contact members who were absent from your Sunday School last Sunday. Simple! Easy! All you need is a REALM account and a willingness to say, “We missed you!” REALM literally puts this capability into the palm or your hands. What a great way to start “bringing relationships to Life.” Call the church office for an account.

Missions Giving for Calendar Year 2018 was as follows:

The BGAV	\$	31,922.13
CBF	\$	168.68
John Leland Center	\$	8,445.31
The BNOC	\$	13,142.38

Total	\$	53,687.50

BGAV = Baptist General Association of Virginia
 CBF = Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
 BNOC = Bridge Network of Churches

First-Time Visitors

Back in June 2018 we began tracking first-time visitors to our church, while at the same time placing more emphasis on how we notice and greet these new guests. Since then, we have received 193 first-time visitor cards as shown below. Our “growth problem” is not the lack of visitors to our worship services. What do you think it is?

Jun (10)	Sep (25)	Dec (25),
Jul (18)	Oct (28)	Jan (30),
Aug (12)	Nov (19)	Feb (26)

KIDS Ministry

One of our Kid’s Ministry goals for 2019 is to have our children actively participate in our Worship Services. The last Sunday of each month children will be scheduled to read scripture passages. The past 2 months our children have done an incredible job preparing and giving God their best. It is a perfect place to teach children to serve the Lord with excellence. What an amazing addition this has been to our worship time. They bring with them a certain enthusiasm and light heartedness and that is something everybody needs to be reminded of time to time. Children bring a smile, either to our faces or to our hearts. Maybe this will make some adults reevaluate how they prepare for being a part of our worship time. Our children are certainly raising the bar for adults as they contemplate their part in our Worship Services.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Vacation Bible School June 17-21

IN THE WILD

AMAZING ENCOUNTERS WITH JESUS

Be thinking how you would like be involved in this community outreach event.

We are now accepting scholarship donations to help with the expenses of sending our children to Centri-Kid Camp this summer.

See Julie if you would like to donate.

Cost: \$295.00

What's Happening in the Next Several Months

Apr 2: ODU/PAHS Combined Concert
Apr 4: JOY Lunch Bunch
Apr 7: Mega Fellowship Sunday
Apr 11: JOY Dinner
Apr 13: Church Work Day
Apr 14: Palm Sunday
Apr 15 - 17: Holy Week Evening Meals/Services
Apr 18: Maundy Thursday
Apr 19: Good Friday Service
April 21: Easter Sunday
Apr 25: PAHS Band Spring Concert
Apr 28: Deacon's Meeting
May 2: National Day of Prayer/Lunch
May 4: Mother Daughter Tea (WINGS)
May 4: Youth Car Wash Fundraiser
May 5: Mega Fellowship Sunday
May 5: Variety Show and Dinner Youth Fundraiser
May 9: Nonagenarian Tea
May 11: Aragona Outreach
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 Fellowship Sunday
Jun 6: JOY Ministry Speaker
Jun 8: VBS Preschool Teacher Training
Jun 9: Graduation Luncheon
Jun 15: Church Work Day
Jun 20: JOY Dinner
June 22: VBS Decorating (All of Church)
Jun 23: Deacon's Meeting
Jun 24 - 28: VBS
Jul 7: Mega Fellowship Sunday
Jul 18: JOY Dinner
Jul 21-27: Tri-Cities Camp (Youth)
Jul 21: Church Council, Business Meeting,
Deacon's Meeting
Jul 29-Aug 2: Music Camp
Aug 4-9: Watermarks Camp (Youth)
Aug 11: Lord's Supper
Aug 17: Movie Matinee (WINGS)
Aug 18: Deacon's Meeting
Aug 29: JOY Game Day/Potluck

A Reminder Please

Gary and Antonio Tutt are employed by TLBC specifically to provide janitorial and facilities maintenance services. As time permits, they might also take on other assignments, as tasked by the Church Office. Increasingly though, less and less time is available for them to do their primary responsibilities because they are seemingly asked by "anyone and everyone" to do "whatever" task around the church. Most of these "whatever" tasks are organizational, class, or ministry responsibilities that should be done by that organization, class, or ministry team. With regard the Fellowship Hall, we will soon adopt a standard configuration that Gary and Antonio will maintain. Anything beyond the standard configuration will be the responsibility of the person or group using the Fellowship Hall. And don't forget, folks using church facilities are required to clean up after themselves and return the space to its "as found" configuration. Thanks in advance!

Join us for ...

Mega Fellowship Sunday

Sunday, May 5

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

Invite a friend and come join us!

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

The XP Corner

I've noticed an up-tic in "volunteerism" in the church in the past few months, but definitely since Christmas. You've probably noticed it too. Many members are seeing things in and around the church that had been left to degrade forever, it seems, and are stepping up to fix them. Or, they have been asked to get involved in something that might not be inside their comfort zones and are jumping in to do it anyhow. Curious. In a book that I finished reading recently, a simple statement caught my eye. Then it caught my mind. And finally, it took over my sleep. Here it is: *"Leaders that have a strong sense of ownership are leaders that can connect their jobs to the results of the organization."* I don't think that I have every read anything that offers greater insight into why some organizations, church included, succeed while others do not. Ownership. Obviously the book was on leadership, but I think the statement goes way beyond leadership. Until we (any of us) "own" something, we give it lip service. Once we "own it" it is ours and it is at that point where we can become invested. An organization that is not invested in where it purports to be heading is not going to get there. If it does, it is by accident. A church that is not invested in what it purports its "mission" to be is not going to get there either. It is headed in a different direction (singular) or, more likely, in many different directions (plural) — with each different direction working against the others. Ownership drives investment—self, time, talents, money—towards an outcome: the results of the organization. The corollary to ownership driving investment is this: when you see investment you probably see ownership. Volunteerism looks a lot like "ownership" to me! // The coffee is just right. Please drop by!

David Doyle

Holy Week Services Pre-View

Holy week begins on Sunday , April 14 and ends Resurrection Sunday on 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 at 8:30 and 11:00 am
- Monday, Apr. 15 - Hot Dogs and Chips starting at 6:15pm followed by Holy Week services at 7:00pm
- Tuesday, Apr. 16 - Pizza starting at 6:15pm followed by Holy Week services at 7:00pm
- Wednesday, Apr. 17 - Soup and Sandwich starting at 6:15pm followed by Holy Week services at 7:00pm
- Thursday, Apr. 18 - Maundy Thursday with the Lord's Supper service at 7:00pm
- Friday, Apr. 19 - Good Friday Service at 7:00pm
- Sunday, Apr. 21 - Resurrection Sunday worship services at 8:30 and 11:00 am

Capital Building/Facility Priorities

- Restrooms - Pay off the restroom renovation project. As of this writing we still are \$15,000.00 short! (ASAP!)
- Youth Hall - Complete renovation. There has been much progress already, thanks to many donations of time, energy, material and cash donations. (2019)
- Youth Hall - Replace windows. (Not part of the current renovation project)
- Chapel - paint and replace flooring. (2019)
- Library - Replace flooring (2019)
- Air Conditioning Units - Music Suite, Fellowship Hall, Chapel. It's not just that these units are getting very old, but that we can no longer find/buy the controllers for our antiquated control system. (2019, 2020)
- Fellowship Hall - Cabinetry, sound system, flooring, heat efficient windows, etc. (2020)
- Entry Doors - Magnetize all main entry doors to enable a quick lock-down, in case of emergency. (2019, 2020)
- Parking Lot - Complete the installation of LED lighting. (2019) Re-treat paved area to extend its life (2020)
- Emergency Alert - Install an emergency alert system throughout church (2020)

Is God's Word Getting into You?

It couldn't be more clear: one of the handful of absolute essentials for victorious living is the habitual reading of God's Word.

Why is that? Because the more we get into His Word, the more His Word gets into us. And the more His Word gets into us, the more likely our hearts and minds will resonate with His Heart and Mind...the more likely we are to hear and obey Holy Spirit...the more likely we are to fulfill His purpose, that we resemble Jesus...the more likely we are to experience peace and joy, and the less likely the evil one will knock us off track.

Reading God's Word isn't everything, but it is an essential part of the only thing, so if you haven't already, let's get started:

Make an appointment with Him every day. Give that appointment the same priority you give to paying your bills or getting to work on time. Write it on your schedule; leave yourself reminders. The first thing in the morning is ideal – mine is about ten minutes after I get up - but pick any time you think you're likely to stick to. Go to as quiet a place with as few interruptions or distractions as possible. Have a Bible (preferably an actual translation rather than a paraphrase, whether it's on paper or a mobile app or whatever), a pen and paper, and a reading plan.

There are many reading plans that suggest an order in which to read the books, and how much to read each day. You can freelance that, maybe by starting in Genesis, but be mindful that many who set out to read the Bible straight through cover-to-cover get bogged down about 10-20% of the way through. Some study Bibles include a suggested plan, or you can find one online. But don't let not having picked a plan keep you from getting started, so as a default I suggest starting with Genesis and Exodus, then skipping over to the gospel of John, and then Romans.

Start with prayer. Elevate your reading to a relational encounter by asking Holy Spirit to "read" it to you. . A focus I try to bring to my Bible reading is asking what the text reveals about God's personality or attributes. Regardless, commit in advance to obeying any instructions you discover.

You may not use the pen and paper much, but if He were to reveal something specific through your reading, you'd want be able to write it down before you forget it. Also, make a note of any passages that you don't understand so that you can either study them later or ask a teacher or mentor about them.

You can get through in about a year if you read three chapters a day, but if starting with just one chapter a day helps you establish the habit, then by all means do just that. Don't rush; "chew your food." Be more concerned with the consistency of the habit than with how quickly you're getting through it. If you distract easily, have poor eyesight, or have trouble reading, consider listening to a recorded Bible reading either online or on CDs as you read visually (borrow CDs from the church library if you must).

If you miss a day, make sure you resume the next day. If you miss nine days, make sure you resume on the tenth. Never give up, no matter how many times you get knocked off track.

Beyond simply reading, there's also memorization, study, meditation on His Word, journaling, and so forth. But we'll discuss those another time. In the meantime, if you haven't already, make simply reading the Bible habitually one of your highest priorities. Yes, it's that important..

Tom Donahue



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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