

Thalia Lynn Baptist Church

at Town Center

The Vision

May 2019

Some may ask why churches go on mission trips. Wouldn't it be easier and do more good just to send the money that would be spent on the trip to the missionaries? Those who think that sending the money rather than going are thinking only for the short term. Yes, the missionaries could use the money but those who send money and never go will not fully experience what missions is all about.

We need to see missions as all that we do at the church. It is not simply sending money but going and working as well. It is acting as Christ's ambassadors here in our community and outside the community. It is sharing Christ here locally and abroad. It is meeting people where they are, wherever you are, and sharing the love of God with them.

Many people want to change the world. Unfortunately, they think they can change a million people at a time. Somehow, they think they can care about a million without having any concern for the one. I praise God that this isn't the way He cares for us. He cares equally for each one of us.

I am leading a mission trip to Costa Rica October 5-12. We will be using interpreters to share our testimonies, distribute church information and prayer walk to share the gospel. We will be going through several weeks of training before we arrive to prepare us for this experience. The first persons changed by this mission trip will be those who go on the trip. They will see never see the world in the same way again. They will understand what it means to change the world God's way because they will see Him change them—one person at a time.

There is only room for six more people to go on this trip. Is God calling you to be changed forever?

(The cost of the trip is approximately \$1500. The church will pay half of this cost. It includes airfare, lodging and food for the trip. We will not be able to take any more people once we have reached our maximum number of 10.)

Prentis McGoldrick

Mega Fellowship Breakfast ~ May 5th

Invite a friend and come join us for the fellowship!

Fellowship Hall Note:

Please note the following with regards to using the Fellowship Hall:

Groups using the Fellowship Hall are responsible for preparing their own tea, lemonade, coffee, etc. (if used) and for cleaning up the drink serving containers after use.

Groups are responsible for ensuring that the trash is removed and that the kitchen is left as found.

Please don't leave pots, pans, and utensils for someone else to clear up. In addition, take all food with you when you leave. Do not leave food in the refrigerators/freezers for "someone" else to use later.

Groups should use the vacuum cleaner found in the storage area near the Fellowship Hall main door to ensure that the carpets are left clear of trash and debris.

If groups reconfigure the Fellowship Hall to suite their specific needs, the room should be restored to its "as found" condition.

The Fellowship Hall and Kitchen are the most-used rooms in the building. Please do your part to restoring them following your gatherings.

What information would you like to know about our church? What topics would you like to see addressed in future editions of "The Vision." Let the church office know and we will do our best to keep you informed of church matters that interest you.

Twelve-Month Gains/Loss Statistics (As of the End of March 2019)

Gains

Baptism	+10
Letter	+12
Statement	+15
Watchcare	+02

Loss

Death	-09
Request	-20
Letter	-08
Other	-00

Net **+20**

Support to Mega Fellowship Sunday

Date	Class 1	Class 2
May 5	Fishermen Class	Carpenters
Jun 2	Adults Under Construction	Fellowship Class
Jul 7	Grace and Truth Class	
Aug 4	Friendship Class	
Sep 1	Fishermen Class	Carpenters

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. Will your class help us reach the goal?

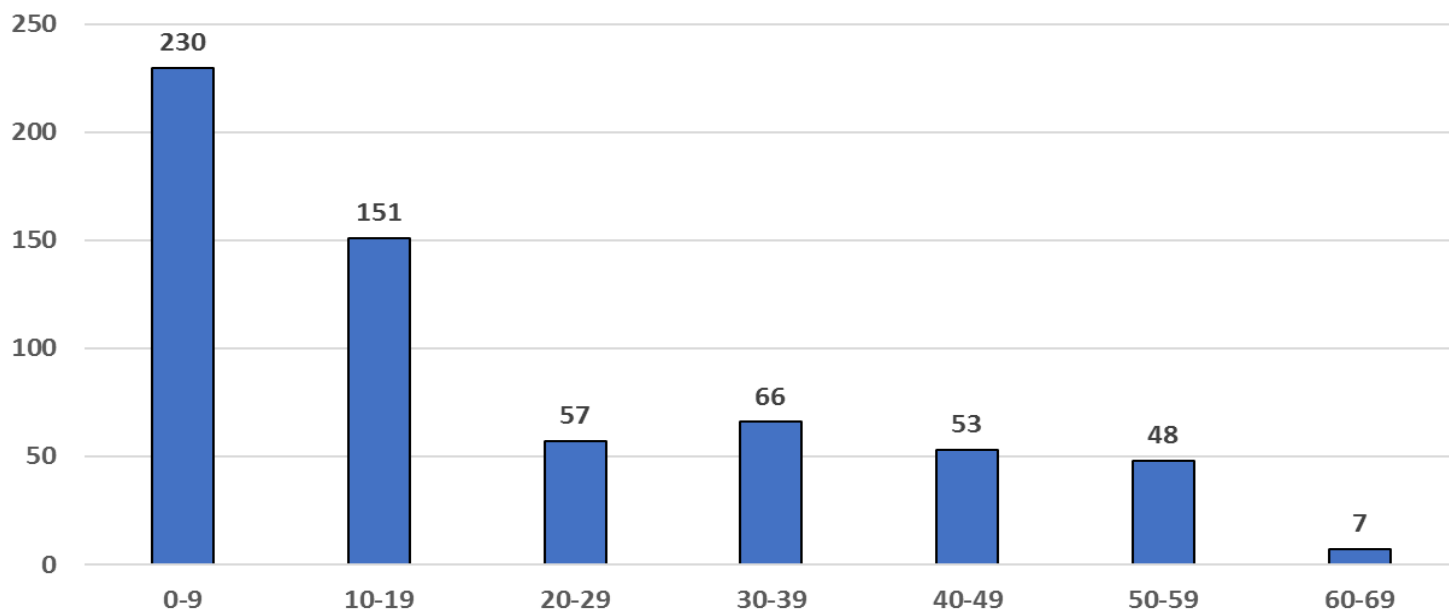
Church Workdays Remaining in 2019

Yes we have projects that you can do to help.
Contact Jim Clifton for more information

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

Understanding Our Church Membership

How Long Have You Been A Member (Years)



Previously we charted the chronological age distribution of ACTIVE church membership and concluded that the average age is skewed to the right — that is, an older population. That average chronological age was 56 years old. This graph is similar but, instead of measuring the persons chronological age, it measures his/her membership age — that is, how many years of continuous membership at TLBC do they have. The average membership age is 20 years, which seems significantly less than the chronological average of 56. years Yes it is and this would suggest that new members are typically older than average. Yes, this has been true historically and it is still true today. We are grateful for every new member that we receive, whatever their age.

Gains/Losses

Welcome to our newest members

Cathy James, Son Hui Kim, Tony Kelly,
Jerusha Kelly, Eliana Kelly, Anthony David Kelly,
Ed Shipley, Sue Wittschen

Farewell to these member

Sue Cornett, Heather Swartz Marshall

In loving memory of these members

Dallas Divelbiss, Herman "Whitey" Hunt

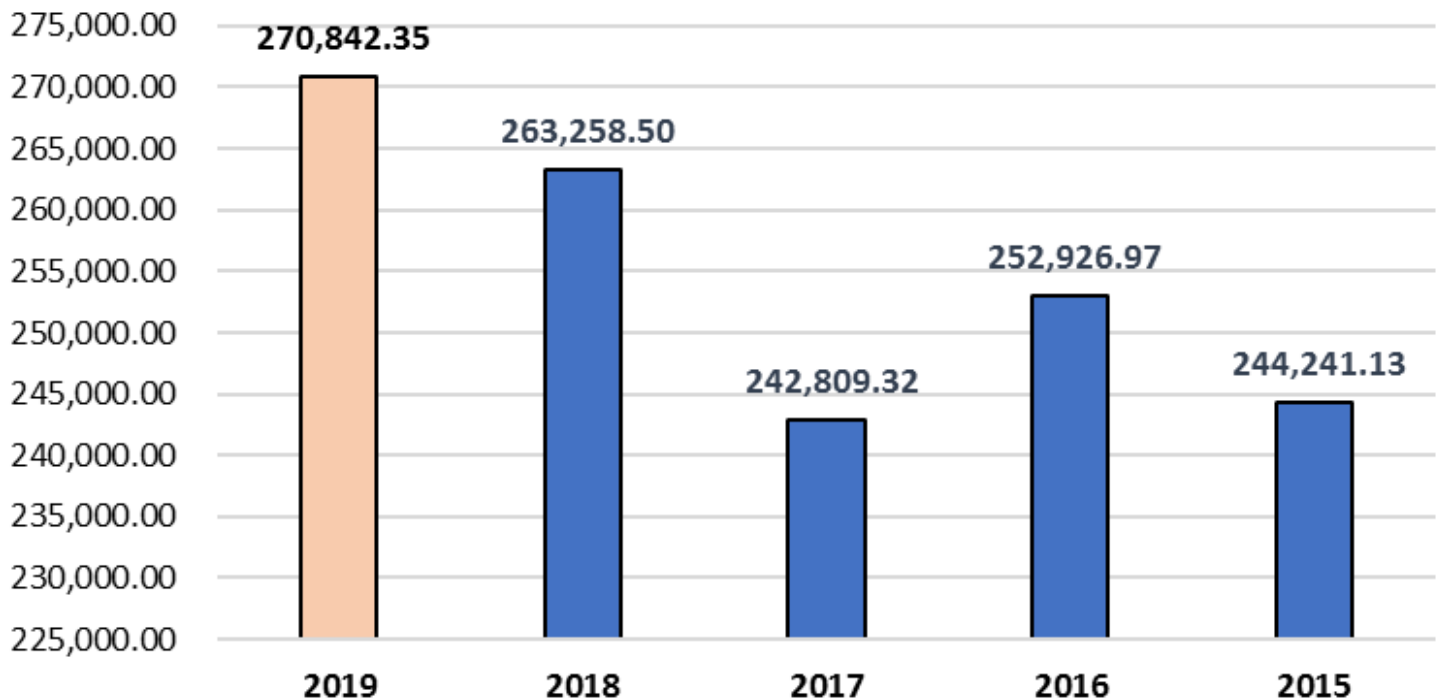
Church Security Note

Effective January 2020, we are looking to stand up a security team to support the security needs of community-type events that are held here at the church. Currently, Deacons are assigned this role for both church services as well as community-type events. If you are interested in becoming part of a Security Team, please contact the church Office. Don't confuse this with the Health and Safety Team that focuses mainly on emergency health matters.

How do I sign up for REALM?

Last year we launched REALM, our new church management software. Many in our church have already signed up and are using REALM. If you are not signed up for REALM, consider doing so. The process is easy. Contact the church office for an invitation. You will receive an email inviting you to join. Follow the simple steps in the process and then you are in! It is that simple.

Budget Income through Week 13



Budget income through week 13 (March 31) of 2019 has been very encouraging when compared to Week 13 of the previous four years and is slightly ahead of the year-to-date budget needs. The approved annual TLBC budget for 2019 is \$1,036,000.00 and we are on track to fully fund this year's budget for the first time in many years. Thank you for your stewardship and continued faithfulness in giving.

Electronic giving so far in 2019 has averaged slightly more than 20% of all contributions received. Giving electronically through the "Giving" option on your REALM App not only is easier for you, the giver, but also simplifies the church financial accounting processes significantly. The REALM App has other uses too. So . . . if you are not currently signed up for a REALM account, you need one! Contact the church office to get a REALM account. Easy! Painless! Useful! Truly convenient!

Join us for ...

Mega Fellowship Sunday

Sunday, June 2

- 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!

What's Happening in the Next Several Months

May 2: National Day of Prayer/Lunch
May 2: BNOC Spring Meeting
May 4: Mother-Daughter Tea (WINGS)
May 5: Mega Sunday Fellowship
May 5: Youth Variety Show and Dinner
May 9: Nonagenarian Tea
May 11: Aragona Outreach
May 11: Yarning for Him (WMU)
May 16: JOY Dinner
May 17: Teacher Appreciation Picnic
May 19: Church Council, Deacon's Meeting
May 26: Air Force Jazz Band Concert
May 27: Memorial Day (Office Closed)
May 30: JOY Game Day
Jun 2: Mega Sunday Fellowship
Jun 2: Children's Music Concert
Jun 6: JOY Ministry Speaker
Jun 8: VBS Preschool Teacher Training
Jun 15: Church Work Day
Jun 17 - 22: VBS Decorating Week
Jun 21: JOY Day-Trip to Smith Island
June 22: VBS Decorating (All of Church)
Jun 23: Deacon's Meeting
Jun 24 - 28: VBS
Jul 7: Mega Sunday Fellowship
Jul 14: JOY Speaker—Understanding Dementia
Jul 15 - 19: Centri-Kid
Jul 21 - 28: Youth Tri-Cities Camp
Jul 21: Church Council, Business Meeting,
Deacon's Meeting
Jul 29-Aug 2: Music Camp
Aug 4 - 9: Youth Watermarks Camp
Aug 4: Mega Sunday Fellowship
Aug 17: WINGS Movie Matinee
Aug 18: Deacon's Meeting
Aug 25: "Who's Your One" Lunch
Sep 1: Mega Sunday Fellowship
Sep 7: Community Fish Fry
Sep 15: Church Council
Sep 28: Rise Against Hunger (WMU Event)

Missions Opportunity

On Saturday, May 11 we will conduct a **mission walk through Aragona** to distribute 800 door hangers that lets folks know about our church summer activities. This mission walk will start at 9:30 am and each participant will hang 50 door hangers. This is a good way to get to know that neighborhood. There are about 4,200 homes in Aragona, our target mission field.

Not everyone is able to go on a mission trip like the mission trip to Costa Rica in October. But we can all take part in a mission effort closer to the church. And Aragona is about as close as a mission field can be to us!

Think about the possibilities for sharing Christ with our neighbors. Think about how we can tailor some of the things we do at TLBC to be able to minister to those closest to us. We have been given an awesome opportunity and responsibility just by being planted here at Town Center. Near Aragona for a reason!!

Restroom Project

As of this writing, we still "owe" ourselves about \$12K to fully fund last year's renovation of nine restrooms. We do not still owe the contractor anything because when the work was complete, the church used \$30K of unrestricted reserves to pay off the balance. Since then, we have recouped about \$18K of what we loaned ourselves, leaving \$12K that still needs to be put back into our unrestricted reserves.

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

Have I got a deal for you! I need you to help identify things in and around the church that need to be fixed – big or small. Broken things, broken systems, broken processes are fair game. While I can't promise that we will fix everything in one month, or in one year, I will promise you that you that we will work at fixing these things as efficiently and as quickly as possible. Yep, you heard me right: we are going to fix these things. Welcome to my world! Some of these "fix me" projects might be done by individuals, by teams, by Gary and Antonio, or by groups during a church work day, Some might even need to be contracted out. But we are going to get this work done because this is God's House, after all, and this work will be an act of worship too. By the time you get this month's *Vision*, you will already find a drop box in a prominent location and special "Fix Me" cards to report what needs fixing. Fill out the card and drop it in the box. But print your name clearly on the card because you might be just the person I call to help fix it.

David Doyle

Missions Opportunity

Stop *talking* Missions! Just DO IT in a week-long trip to Costa Rica, from October 5, 2019 until October 12, 2019. This is an entry-level program for church members interested in a first-hand experience in international missions. Possible duties include: prayer-walking, evangelism, creative outreach, working in schools, and gospel distribution.

Be prepared for a lot of walking, sometime on uneven surfaces and/or inclines. The weather tends to be hot/humid and air conditioned environments are unlikely.

Led by Prentis McGoldrick
COST: \$925 plus airfare & travel expenses (passport, insurance, vaccinations, etc.) with a 50% sponsorship available through the church. Only 10 spots available

More information on our web site main page or from the church office.

Capital Building/Facility Priorities

- Restrooms - Pay off the restroom renovation project. As of this writing we still are \$12,000.00 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)

Looking Forward: the **MUST** and the **MUST NOT**

In his letter to the Philippian church, the apostle Paul uses the vivid image of a runner to describe his progress as a devoted follower of Christ: “Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:13-14). He follows with these words: “All of us who are mature should take such a view of things” (v. 15). *Yes, we should take such a view of things!* Like Paul we should be growing in our Christlikeness (the goal) even as we anticipate heaven to come (the prize).

Unfortunately, if we are not paying attention, if we are not focused on Christ and what he has clearly commanded us to do as believers, we can get off the track and find ourselves lost in the weeds of misplaced priorities, hollow pursuits, and generally unfulfilled lives. And instead of pressing on toward the goal, straining toward what is ahead, we can find ourselves goalless and straining just to get through the day. In the above passage, the Apostle Paul points out two things that are necessary for us to be growing as Christ’s disciples, for us to be maturing spiritually: First, one **must** look ahead, keeping focused on Christ and the day-to-day goal of being conformed to His image, that is, growing in the likeness of Him. As Prentis has reminded us many times, this doesn’t mean striving for perfection; it means submitting to Christ and following His leading as we intentionally seek out guidance and direction, through prayer, from Him whose spirit (the Holy Spirit) lives in our hearts. Second, one **must not** look back at what was or used to be. Forget about it, as Paul says. Be aware of where you’ve been, yes, but don’t dwell on the past; don’t dwell on what you’ve already left behind. We are made new in Christ and looking back at the old only causes the individual to lose focus on what’s ahead, to stumble, to lose momentum, and to veer completely off course.

I think we all can understand this pretty easily from the standpoint of our own individual lives. But have you ever thought about the implications of Paul’s words for the church, as in *Thalia Lynn Baptist Church*? Do his words not apply just as much for the greater church body as they do for the individual? I think they do. For a church to be maturing as God desires, it (we) **must** keep our focus on Christ, straining toward the goal of increasingly growing, as a body, to be more and more like him, particularly in the context of ministering to the community where he has placed us. This means submitting together to his leading as we intentionally seek, through prayer, his guidance and direction for the church. Also, as a church, we **must not** look back. The past is past and looking behind by the church at large has the same predictable, deflating results that it does for the individual: lost focus and momentum, drifting away from the main goal, stumbling around in the weeds of uncertainty and making no forward progress, no headway, whatsoever.

The goal of the church is clear because Jesus made it clear. We are to love God with everything we are. We are to love all people as Christ loves us, being good neighbors to everyone, for the purpose of helping as many of them as possible to come to know Christ and his love, and then continue to grow in their Christlikeness, both in their relationship with Him and with others. There is no ambiguity here. There is nothing to interpret and nothing to argue about. The goal has already been set by Christ Himself and there are countless passages of Scripture that point this out. In short, there is only one of two choices to be made both as individual believers and as a church: to either look forward, pressing on toward the goal to which God has called us—or not. It’s that simple.

Perry Crouch

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

US POSTAGE

PAID

VIRGINIA BEACH VA

PERMIT NO 51

Youth Watermarks Camp
August 4-9

Youth Tri-Cities Camp
July 21-27



Vacation Bible School
June 24-28

Centri-Kid Camp
July 15-19

Music Camp
July 29 - August 2