

# Thalia Lynn Baptist Church

at Town Center

*The Vision*

**August 2019**

People are always talking about what they will do for the Lord. Let's talk about what we won't do for the Lord for a change. That answer is more revealing than what we will do.

Would you be a Moses and leave your livelihood to lead God's people out of a dire problem? Moses certainly didn't want to. He tried to give every excuse so that God would choose someone else. Not doing what the Lord asked was worse than following Him. Too many people think they can say "no" to the Lord and still call Him Lord. They can't. Walking with the Lord requires doing what He has said. Moses knew that and decided to be the man God called him to be.

Would you be a Paul and so change your life that you would change your name. Paul's Hebrew name was Saul. It was a fine name. It was the name of the first Hebrew king. It would resonate with the Jews. The problem was that Paul's mission meant that he would reach people that might not listen to him with a Hebrew name. He chose a Greek name so that his name would no longer be a barrier to reaching people.

Would you be a Simon Peter who would give up telling the Lord what he would do to do what the Lord required of him? Peter was quick to say what he would do if Jesus was arrested. He claimed he would stand with Jesus even while the others fled. At Jesus' arrest he tried. He cut off the ear of a servant. Jesus told him that this was not what he should do. Taking control was all he had ever known. He fled when he didn't have control. He denied the Lord when he knew he couldn't control things at Jesus' trial. Jesus restored him to service on the shores of Galilee. Peter had to give up control if he was to call Jesus Lord.

So, what will you not do? Will you refuse to do what the Lord asks you to do because you don't think you can do it? Will you refuse to remove barriers that keep people from the Lord because they make you comfortable? Will you allow the Lord to lead rather than having to be in control yourself?

Remember, The Lord Jesus is only your Lord when you obey completely without exceptions.

*Prentis McGoldrick*

**Mega Fellowship Breakfast ~ August 4**

**Its about people. Invite a friend and come join us for the fellowship!**

4392 Virginia Beach Blvd., Virginia Beach, VA 23462 • 757-499-0557 • [www.ThaliaLynn.com](http://www.ThaliaLynn.com)

Do you need a phone number to contact a member of your Sunday School class? Would you like an address to send someone a “thinking of you card”? Have you ever wanted to touch base with someone and realize that it is Friday and the church office is closed for their information? Realm is here to help you! Realm, TLBC’s management software, is available to church members and Sunday School members. All you need is an account. Contact the church office to set-up your account today!



### Wednesday Nights in August

During the month of August there will be a “PAUSE” in our Wednesday night activities. Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinner and all activities for children and youth as well as small groups will take a short break during the month. Prayer Meeting will continue to take place at 6:00 pm. For those of you in choir, orchestra, and other aspects of music, check with Bret for your rehearsal schedule. All activities will return September 4.

#### WINGS Movie Matinee

*(Women IN God’s Service)*

Saturday, August 17 from 12:00-2:00 pm

Movie: *90 Minutes in Heaven*

Lunch: Potato Bar

Cost: \$7 per person; childcare offered at \$5 per child with advance registration.

Sign up at the WINGS table on Sunday!

## Support to Mega Fellowship Sunday

Date	Class 1	Class 2
Aug 4	Friendship Class	<b>Please</b> Sign Up
Sep 1	Fishermen Class	Carpenters
Oct 6	Adults Under Construction	Fellowship Class
Nov 3	Grace and Truth Class	Bereans Class
Dec 1	Friendship Class	<b>Please</b> Sign Up

The support goal for Mega Fellowship Sunday is to have a total of eight classes paired up by twos, on a four-month rotation schedule. If your class would like to be added to the rotation, let the church office now.

AS IRON  
SHARPENS IRON.  
SO A MAN SHARPENS  
THE COUNTENANCE  
OF HIS FRIEND.  
PROVERBS 27:17

### 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

### Gains/Losses

#### Welcome to our newest members

Trina Highter

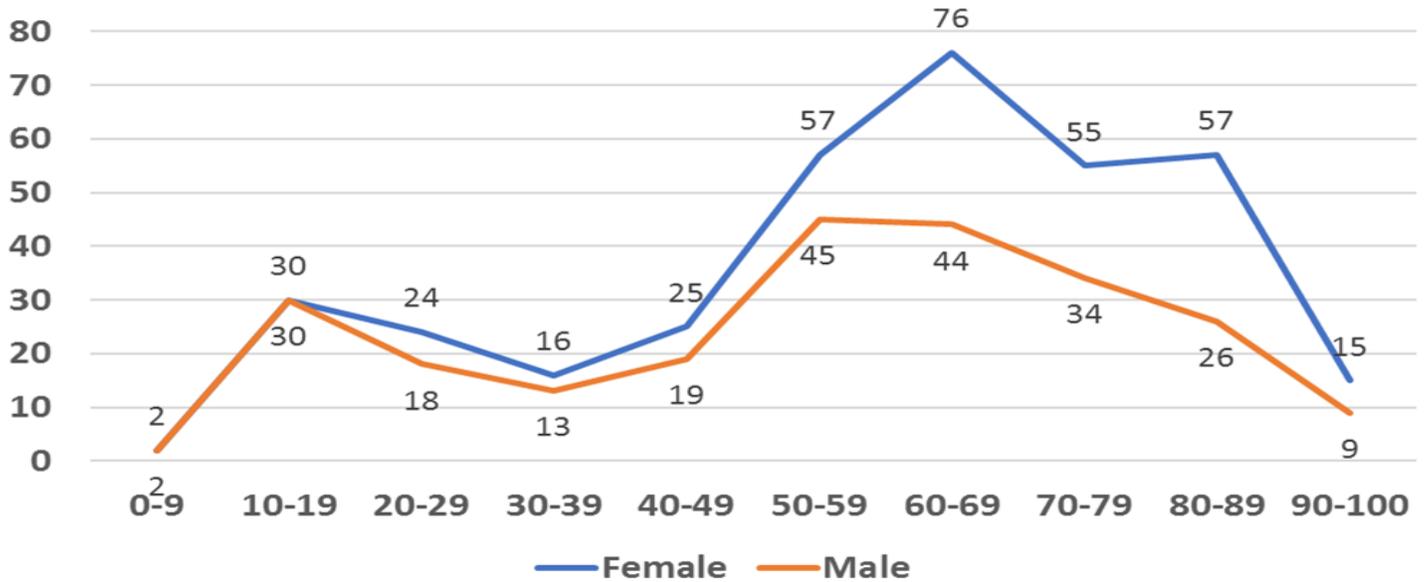
Tanika Lee

#### In loving memory of these members

Sam Doyle

# A Look at Our Membership

## Members by Age Group and Gender



One of the realities that churches face today is that the population of men and women in a church is skewed towards women. This fact is true for us as well. The chart above looks at the our own membership by gender and age level. What you see from our data is that, beginning at age 20, there is a numbers gap between men and women members that never closes. Said another way, there are more women than men in every age level once the population is 20 years and older. This chart is derived from our resident membership of roughly 600 members, where the total of women (of all ages) outnumber the men (of all ages) by 50 percent. That is, 60 percent of our membership population is women; 40 percent is men. Our gap begins to widen disproportionately at age 50, and by age 60 the gap is at its widest spread.

At this point, you might think that our gap might be attributed to the life expectancy of men vs women. This is only partly true: the U.S. male life expectancy is 73.4 years for men and 80.1 years for women, a difference of 6.7 years. Moreover, men dying at a greater rate than women also makes sense biologically, because 105 males are born for every 100 females. But, if there are more men than women in the general population, why isn't that proportion true for our church? Mortality and birth rates alone do not fully explain the gap that we are experiencing.

We are not reaching men in the same numbers that we are reaching women. Over the past five years, 95 women have joined the church, compared with 65 men. Or (again!), roughly 50 percent more women join than men. One of our church strategies going forward must include an effective means of attracting and developing men to be strong, committed men of God — REAL men.

Those wheels are starting to turn. In this publication you will see an article by Dr. Thom Owens, who has stepped forward to lead a Knights of the 21st Century (K21) program here. K21 is designed specifically to lead us towards a Christ-centered forum for meeting men where they are and bringing them (discipling them) to be the men that God intended them to become. The most effective way to reach families is by reaching the man. Why? Statistics show that when the man is committed to Christ, his family will follow him to church over 90% of the time. The same is not true for women. When women are committed to Christ, her family will follow her to church 20% of the time or less. I mention these statistics not to reduce the importance of reaching out to women but to emphasize how critical it is to reach men. Generally speaking, women are more spiritually sensitive/inclined/obedient I think. Men are not. But when a man becomes what God designed him to be, he impacts his whole family in a powerful and lasting way. If you are a man, you need to be part of K21. Your family needs you to be part of K21. It will change you—and your family. Really!

*David Doyle*

## SAVE THE DATE:

**Saturday September 7th**

**from 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm at TLBC**

Our Deacon sponsored Fish Fry will be here before you know it! What can you do? Help us spread the word. In your newsletter is a small poster for the event. We ask you to place it somewhere in your community—a restaurant you frequent, your grocery store, or where you work. Any place that has a board for community events. In addition to this poster, tickets will be placed in the bulletin every Sunday in August. While the ticket is not required for entrance, it does give potential guests the important information. Take these tickets and hand them out to your friends and family; use it as a tool to invite someone. Additional tickets and posters will be available in the church office.

## Coming Very Soon

Thanks to a generous designated gift by a member, we are planning to replace the flooring in the library on August 8-9. While the work will be done by a flooring company we will use a “working party” to remove and return the book from multiple shelving units that are not permanently installed, so the flooring can be laid beneath them. More to follow. Planning for this work to before the fish fry in September.

## Aragona Walk-About

On Saturday, August 17, we will do another **Mission Walk-About** in Aragona, placing information about our fall activities and events on the door knobs of about 800 homes. We will need 40 people to be part of this important effort. Don't just consider joining this effort. Decide now to do it and follow through on August 17.

## Mega Fellowship Sunday

Sunday, August 4

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!**

## Quotable Business Quote with Church Implications

If the rate of change on the OUTSIDE exceeds the rate of change on the INSIDE, then the end is near.

- Jack Welch

## What's Happening in the Next Several Months

July 29-August 2: Music Camp

August 2: Music Camp Performance

August 4: Mega Fellowship Sunday

August 4-9: Watermarks Camp (Youth)

August 7, 14, 21 & 28: Wednesday Night  
Pause

August 8: Family Pool Party

August 11: Lord's Supper

August 17: Aragona Outreach

August 17: WINGS Movie Matinee

August 18: Deacon's Meeting

August 20: Knights of the 21 Century  
(K21)

August 24: Church Work Day

August 29: JOY Potluck & Town Hall  
Meeting

September 1: Mega Fellowship Sunday

September 2: Labor Day

September 4: Wednesday Night  
Recharge Begins

September 6: Planet 56 Moving-Up  
Celebration

September 7: Community Fish Fry

September 8: Lord's Supper in both  
services

September 9: Ballroom Dance Class  
(The Waltz)

September 13: Christmas Program Kick-  
off

September 15: Church Council &  
Deacon's Meeting

September 19: JOY Dinner

September 24: JOY Trip to Washington  
D.C.

September 28: Rise Against Hunger

October 6: Mega Fellowship Sunday

## Thoughts on TLBC Men's Ministry - Knights of the 21st Century Dr. Thom Owens

Lately, I have frequently come across the verse in Proverbs 27:17 "As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." Men like to use this verse to encourage other men, but I always want to make sure that we are not missing the underlying truth to the verse and its message. As we begin this new men's ministry, I want to share a few thoughts with you. We sometimes forget the historical context that goes with some of our favorite verses.



Before iron is ready to be sharpened it must be prepared to take an edge through a forging process. The iron is heated to the right temperature for forging. When discussing developing or sharpening another, we must first understand that there is going to be heat. The amount of heat is critical to the forging process. Too cool and the metal remains too hard to easily move and shape into a useable form. If it is too hot it loses its structural integrity and comes apart. Sometimes people are not ready to be sharpened. They have either not been exposed to enough heat, meaning they are not ready to come out of their comfort zone or they have been exposed to too much heat and they need to cool down before they can be shaped for sharpening.

When the iron reaches the correct temperature, it is then drawn out and shaped with regard to its purpose. Being developed and shaped by the input of others is crucial to embracing our calling as men. This forging process of heating the iron, shaping it and finishing it are all used to harden the iron. The K21 program provides the unmoving anvil that men can commit to in order to be shaped. This anvil is a metaphor for the 15 principles of manhood that guide our beliefs as knights and allow us to be shaped by the hammer of discipline. The ministry does not serve as the hammer, but rather puts the hammer into the hand of the man so that he is shaped through self-discipline. We encourage him in the knowledge that each blow of the hammer, although uncomfortable, is what is needed to shape him and prepare him to take the edge.



The heat of the forge fires of life, the anvil of commitment and the hammer of discipline mean little if we are not quenched as iron. After the iron is shaped and heated, it must be rapidly cooled to put it into its hardest state. If the iron cools slowly, it does not get hard enough to take an edge. This process actually changes the physical and chemical properties of the material. For Christians this quenching is done by the Holy Spirit as we are spiritually changed when we go through the process of becoming a disciple of Christ.

This quenching, the receiving of the Holy Spirit through a relationship with Jesus Christ, is a pre-requisite for each of our program leaders. Unhardened iron cannot sharpen anything. Only

someone who has gone through this process themselves and has been changed at the spiritual level can sharpen another. Without this hardening, we can attempt to develop another but all we are doing is filing away at material and getting no closer to our goal of sharpening them, preparing them to embrace their true calling as a man.

Once the iron is hardened, it must then be tempered, or heat treated at a controlled temperature and length of time to achieve greater toughness. This process decreases the hardness, the rigidity and brittleness of the iron by sacrificing some strength for increased flexibility and durability. For us to be changed this way requires the tempering that comes through trusted relationships, beginning first with a relationship with Jesus and then through other men.

Our men's ministry serves as a place where those life experiences, that heat, can be channeled effectively into a forge fire to prepare men for the transformation needed to be sharpened. The ministry creates a space where commitment to personal and spiritual growth and development are treated as an anvil, hard and unmoving so that we may be shaped upon it. The steps of self-discovery and the application of self-discipline are required to reach our full potential as men. Once a man is quenched, the ministry again serves as a tempering force regulating the heat of life so that he does not become brittle or broken. We help him embody the principles of a knight and embrace God's design for his life as we continue to guide him in that heroic journey of authentic manhood. We look forward to this journey together and hope to see you there this fall.



- Thom

## The XP Corner

In shipboard navigation there are several forces inside and outside the ship that, if acting alone or combined, move a ship off its intended track. Such forces include water currents, wind speed and direction, ship speed through the water, size of the ship, amount of freeboard, etc. Even when traveling on a steady course, every ship will ultimately find itself off its intended track because of these forces. The difference (distance and direction) between where the ship actually is and where it should have been is called "set and drift." Therefore, to stay on its intended track, a ship must compensate for set and drift by following a slightly different course and even adjusting engine speed. Set and drift changes constantly as its contributing forces vary. The sea captain that ignores "set and drift" will eventually find himself/herself in shoal water or, worse yet, shipwrecked. The longer the length between ship course/speed corrections, the further off track the ship will find itself

There is a similar set of terms used in navigation that sea captains must also not neglect: "advance and transfer." This terminology is a bit more difficult to understand. But, let's suppose that a ship needs to make a turn. Once the rudder is turned toward the new course it takes several minutes for a ship to settle on its new course. Meanwhile, the ship will continue to "slide" on a track that is parallel to its old course, before it will eventually settle on a new track that is parallel to its new course. This is like what your car will do if you turn suddenly on a slick (icy) pavement: it tends to move in the old direction before it settle on the new one. You've turned the steering wheel but inertia takes over. The car slips and slides in the old direction (hopefully not into a ditch). Knowing when to turn is important to staying on track. Ship momentum in a wrong direction is not easy to overcome.

Neither is church momentum. Set and drift could just as easily be church terms: the church that will not change eventually will drift off track. If it does not change for a long time, it gets way off track. So too advance and transfer: the church that changes course too late is also liable to wind up in the ditch, if it is lucky, or with its door closed, if not. The need for change is constant, due to inside and outside forces. Change is always necessary. It must be intentional, or it will not happen. Change is not just a decision of the mind but a choice of the heart.

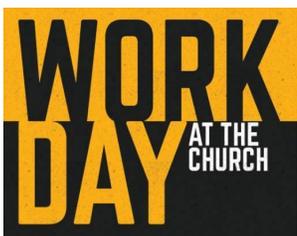
Please don't misunderstand me to say that we need to change our doctrine or try to make the Scriptures say something that they do not. But we need to change what we do and how we do it. The Knights of the 21st Century is a good way to start changing how we focus on growing real men. Real men seek to be godly men. Real men grow in Christ. Real men lead and bring their families to Him.

*David Doyle*

## Thoughts on Driving Growth

1. Make a decision to grow
2. Make growth a priority
3. Focus on programs that produce growth
4. Pour energy into Children and Youth ministries
5. Promote a culture of inviting others
6. Invest in small groups that connect
7. Get people involved faster

## Next Workday is Aug 24



This is our pre-Fish Fry focus on building upkeep and cleanup. Come ready to paint and haul "stuff" out. Limited outside/yard work. We will need at least 15 people for this work day. Please come and lend a hand.

## "The Upper Room" Renovation

Great progress on the Youth Hall ("The Upper Room") Renovation has been made thanks to the many volunteers and their skilled labor and donations provided by many church



members. We are on the home stretch for completion. Funding is still needed to purchase laminate flooring and flat screen TVs for the classrooms. We hope that you will consider making a designated fund donation so "The Upper Room" can be completed by the end of the summer.

Shane Faircloth and Darleen Mastin



## Keeping our Beliefs, But Adjusting Our Approach Part 2:

### People Who Visit the Church

Last month, in Part 1 of “Keeping Our Beliefs, But Adjusting Our Approach”, we looked together at how our approach to reading the Bible affects not only our own spiritual growth as Christian believers, but also the growth of those who don’t know but need to know the Lord. We looked at the importance of making our overarching goal that of continuing to grow in the likeness of Christ and how this happens through learning about His life and teachings as written of in Scripture, primarily the New Testament. The “change in approach” had to do with how we understand and share what is in the Bible: choosing to treat it either as a God-inspired collection of equally-important parts to be read straight through like a regular chapter book or as the story of God’s love and eventual salvation of mankind written in the form of two-God inspired testaments or covenants (Old and New), culminating in the coming of Christ to earth—his birth, life, death on the cross and resurrection—as Savior of the world, as presented in the New Testament and prophesied in the Old. That was last month’s emphasis. This month we want to look at our approach regarding people, or more specifically, visitors.

Based on the new commandment that Christ gave his disciples to love others as he loved them, our thoughts and actions as Christian believers should always be geared toward others as opposed to ourselves. This is reflected in many ways in the church. Reaching others, teaching others, helping others, etc., all fall under the umbrella of Christ’s love working through us and is what should mark our lives as followers of Christ. This means not getting so lost in the “vertical” relationship we have with Christ, that we neglect the “horizontal” relationships He has commanded us to have with others. It means setting aside our own wants and focusing instead on the needs that they have. Practically-speaking, how should this be playing out regarding visitors who come to Thalia Lynn? Are there specific attitudes and actions toward visitors that should be evident in your life as a Thalia Lynn church member? Yes! Things like:

- avoiding at all costs Sunday morning “holy huddles” where business of the church and other issues are discussed, usually at the welcome centers, in the hallways, doorways, etc. While church business is important, it needs to take a back seat to other more critical things that we should be about on Sunday mornings, most notably our treatment of visitors. (Note: there is probably no greater turnoff for a visiting family than the existence of “holy huddles” in the church, especially on Sunday mornings);
- intentionally making the effort to move out of your comfort zone on Sunday mornings by breaking away from your established group of friends in order to get to know some new people;
- recognizing the value and importance of the job that our greeters do—whether at the doors, the welcome centers, the bulletin stations or in the sanctuary—by not distracting them or otherwise hindering their efforts as they welcome guests and others to Thalia Lynn;
- not parking in spots designated for first-time Sunday visitors;
- being cooperative on name tag Sundays by simply putting on a name tag for all the morning activities;
- enthusiastically participating in Mega Fellowship Sundays for the express purpose of meeting and greeting visitors and other folks (rather than retreating to your classroom or giving excuses of why you’re not participating);
- going the extra mile in seeking out and warmly welcoming people you don’t know both before and after the worship services (as well as in your Sunday School class);
- engaging visitors in normal, friendly conversation rather than making them feel as if you are trying to “sell” them on the church;
- looking for ways to generally be involved in helping others in the name of Christ through ministry and mission opportunities. And on the list goes.

Few would argue the importance of putting the needs of others ahead of our own; we know we should because Christ did it and He has made it very clear that we should do the same. We could even go so far as to say that the idea of “doing for others” is an integral part of our overall belief system as Christians, right? But believing and actually doing what we say we believe are two different things. Look for a moment at the words of the Apostle Paul in Ephesians 4:29: Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. What should “doing what is helpful to others according to their needs” look like for you on a Sunday morning? When you arrive to church, do you consciously lay aside your own private agenda for the benefit of others? Do you show an interest in meeting new folks and discovering what their needs might be? Look again at the above listing. Some of our church members do these things but honestly speaking, many do not. How about you? Are you one who needs to make an adjustment in your approach to visitors and, if so, are you willing to make the commitment to change that approach starting this Sunday?

--Perry Crouch

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## **The Lord's Supper Supper** **August 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm**

Join us, where as a church family, we will come together  
and celebrate the Lord's Supper.

We begin in the Sanctuary and observe the Lord's Supper  
and then transition to the Fellowship Hall as we celebrate with a meal.

Cost: by donation

Meal Choice: Beef or Lamb with all the trimmings

Reservations are required along with your meal choice. Reservations can  
be made at the table outside the Media Center or by calling the church  
office. All reservations are required by Sunday, August 4<sup>th</sup>.