

The Vision

From the Pastor's Desk

Prentis McGoldrick
Senior Pastor



Christmas is the season to give gifts. The greatest gift has already been given. It is Jesus. And Jesus expects us to give Him to others. This Christmas season look around you. People who are lonely and hurting need Christmas. They need more than gifts. They need relationships that are meaningful. Christmas is a time when people remember their pasts. They remember other, more happy Christmases. Maybe they are in a financial strain and can't give like they once could. Maybe they have gone through a divorce, and they might not have their children on Christmas. Maybe they have lost a loved one who always made Christmas special. Maybe they have no one to be with at Christmas. They could be a sailor who can't afford to go home.

This is when God can open our eyes to others. We can invite them to be with us. Maybe at a class Christmas party. Maybe at the Christmas Eve services. Maybe just take them a plate of cookies and wish them a Merry Christmas.

This is the time that many people will be open to speaking to about spiritual matters. Some of them may think they can't come to church because of their pasts. Assure them that all we have at our church are sinners who have been changed by the unlimited grace of God. Tell them that we won't judge them.

Some people think they don't have the right clothing to come to church. Assure them that we don't care. There are people dressed in all manner of clothing. We will not look down on them because of their clothing.

Some people think they must get right with God before they can come to church. Assure them that this is the place to get right with God. Even tears are accepted at our church.

Don't let your judgement of people keep you from inviting them. You may think they aren't interest but you need to let them make that decision rather than you. If you never invite them, you have made the decision for them.

I pray that this season is one of loving people no matter what they are presently doing or have done in their pasts. I pray that the Spirit will inhabit us manifestly to open our mouths.

Maybe you can help make this Christmas the time when someone comes to God. Yes, make this Christmas the best one ever.

XP Corner: Designated Funds

David Doyle

Executive Pastor of Administration

The largest amount of funds most churches receive are called “Undesignated Giving” or “General Fund Giving.” These gifts are used toward the general operating budget of the church. These have no giver restrictions on how to fund a very specific cause.

The other category is called “Designated Giving.” The donor restricts exactly what he or she wants done with the money. Most churches (ours included) have real challenges that are tied to Designated Giving. These churches are often not equipped to handle situations like the following:

1. Designated Giving can sometimes be a protest of (or a way around) the approved budget of the church. These are often high on the giver's list of priorities but aren't sufficiently high on the church's priorities list to merit sufficient funding via the budget.
2. Designated Giving can sometimes be illegal. Let's say the donor gives to a scholarship fund, and (surprise!) his son receives the funds for his college education a year later.
3. Designated Giving potentially creates divisions in the church when a giver is doing things his way or her way, in support of a “pet project”.
4. Designated Giving creates an environment where advocates of a particular ministry must solicit restricted funds. Ministries are intended to minister, not to be fundraisers.
5. Designated Giving sometimes comes with stipulations that are difficult or impossible to comply with. What happens, for example, if a designated gift is given to build a Family Life Center, and the church decides that it does not want one? (Hmm, does this sound familiar?)
6. Designated Giving often hurts the budget giving of the church. In many cases, each dollar that is designated is also a dollar not contributed to the overall budget.

The best way to support a ministry of the church is by faithful giving to the General Fund. Only then can the church prioritize how it does ministry and how unrestricted (undesignated) gifts are spent.

To be clear, there is most definitely a place in our church for Designated Giving. On the other hand, our church has some 57 different active Designated Funds – Heinz 57. Way too many! Many of these were created for purposes that no longer exist. Others are unnecessary duplications of a budget line in the church budget that perhaps is not funded sufficiently. Still others have seen no in/out activity in several years.

Over the course of the next several months you will not only see a reduction in the number of active Designated Funds that we have but also a decided shift towards making our church budget central to how all ministries are prioritized (or not) and then funded (or not) by our General Fund. The shift will not happen overnight. But it will be done prudently and methodically over the next 12 months. In the shorter term, a big part of this effort will be to identify those very few funds that we should continue to be funded via Designated Giving. In the longer term the need for Designated Giving will lessen significantly as we prioritize better and fund fully our budget needs.

Christmas Eve

4PM

WORSHIP SERVICES

6PM

Bring the family to a night of worship before Christmas! Enjoy the Word of God while the kids enjoy a special gift bag from our KIDs Ministry.



CHURCH 101

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

LED BY DAVID DOYLE

Sunday, December 8, 2024

9:45 am - 10:45 am
Conference Room





International Missions LOTTIE MOON OFFERING

Lottie Moon was appointed a missionary to China July 7, 1873. She was a bold woman of action and radical obedience who shared Christ with the people of China to the end. Lottie died December 24, 1912, leaving a legacy of love and service to her Lord. In truth, she was a disciple of Christ, and she left everything in order to follow her Savior. Her influence led to the establishment of Woman's Missionary Union and inspired other missions' pioneers to join her on the field. Her passionate letter-writing led to the offering that bears her name today, Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions. Lottie's life is a reminder of why we must give to send and support missionaries serving among unreached people in unreached places. Today, when gifts aren't growing as quickly as the number of workers God is calling to the mission field, Lottie's call for sacrificial giving rings with more urgency than ever.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS BAG

Goal: Fill 125 Gift Bags to be distributed to children who attend five Title 1 Elementary schools where more than 50% of the students are from low-income families.

BAG SIGN UPS KICKOFF ON NOVEMBER 10 IN THE LIBRARY.

WOM Members will be available before and after each Sunday worship Service to sign up donors and collect filled bags through December 8.



The WEEK OF PRAYER FOR INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS December 1—December 8. The theme is the GREAT PURSUIT.

“From the Great Commission to the Great Multitude, we unite in a **Great Pursuit** of those who have yet to hear the good news of the gospel,” IMB President Paul Chitwood said. “We work together to address lostness as the world’s greatest problem, to make disciples in every nation, all tribes and peoples and languages.”

The national Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal is \$205 million. As always, every dollar given to this offering will go to the work of IMB missionaries.

You may give to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions anytime during the months of December and January. Envelopes for your offering and Week of Prayer guides are available for you to use. Your offering may also be given in Realm.

NEXT GEN Ministry Momentum

Written by Executive Pastor of
Ministries: Peggy Peek

ALL CHURCHES GROW OLD. STRATEGIC CHURCHES GROW YOUNG

Lately, I have been reading *Growing Young: 6 Essential Strategies To Help Young People Discover and Love Your Church*. It has been stretching my heart and my mind with the love of Jesus for our young people and their families. Here are a few things I highlighted as I read this thought-provoking book:

- Churches that grow young sometimes actually program less in order to free up more space/time for relational connection.
- Warm is the new cool. More than flashy worship, young people want authenticity and connection. Honest relationships and the ability to be real or authentic are not only preferences for young people; they also build stronger churches.
- Parents still carry the most important weight in their kids' faith development. This is true not only in childhood but also through adolescence. Research continues to affirm that the best predictor of a young person's faith is the faith of their parents. Ministry leaders who care about kids also must include the care, equipping, and formation of parents and families.
- Young people need load-bearing roles in the community, meaning they contribute through serving and using their gifts.
- Young people want to know not only what they are saved from but also what they are saved for. They want to take action, not just hear about what they can't do. Participation and challenge are two central features of churches growing young.

I have been challenged by this book as we travel this faith journey together to grow our church younger here in Virginia Beach. As we take Jesus' message seriously to let the children come to Him, may we find creative ways to grow our church Younger.

grace and peace,
Peggy



Childcare for
2 & under for
parents
attending
Bible Study

KIDS PRAISE

SINGING, GAMES, AND INSTRUMENTS
for Ages 3 Years through 6th Grade
Wednesdays 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Contact Peggy Peek for any questions at peggy@mytowncenterchurch.com



KIDS ON MISSION

DECEMBER 6, 2024 AT 6:30PM
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



TLBC-Weekday Learning

Preschool

REGISTRATION

Enroll Now

2024 - 2025 SCHOOL YEAR

email WLP Director, Jacque, for more
information
at jacque@mytowncenterchurch.com



JOY NOTES



THALIA LYNN BAPTIST CHURCH PRESENTS
2024 CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRESENTATION

SOUNDS of CHRISTMAS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2024
IN THE SANCTURARY AT 6:00PM

BAPTISM SUNDAY

Baptisms will be held on December 29, 2024
Help us welcome the new members of our Church Family.

Music & Me

Wednesdays @ 10:00 a.m.
December 4 & 11

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.



the TLBC JOY MINISTRY invites you to

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

December 7, 2024 at 11:30 AM.

Join us for a delightful Christmas
celebration with the Virginia Beach
Chorale Ensemble, featuring
Thalia Lynn's JR Thornton.

THIS EVENT WILL TAKE PLACE ON A
SATURDAY, NOT THURSDAY.
\$10 PER PERSON | RESERVATION BY DEC. 01



Lunch will begin at 11:30 am and
the concert will follow at 12:30 pm



DECEMBER 2024

Rehearsals - Tuesdays at 9:30
December 3, 10

December Outreach

December 8 - Sounds of Christmas at 6:00
December 10 - Caroling at Sharon's at 11:00
Fellowship at Gary's at 12:00
December 17 - Sing at Bay Lake at 10:30
December 19 - Sing at Commonwealth at 11:00

ROBERT J. MORGAN

THE 50 FINAL EVENTS IN WORLD HISTORY

THE BIBLE'S LAST WORDS ON
EARTH'S FINAL DAYS



Women IN THE Word

The Wednesday afternoon ladies' Disciple Group
will begin our study of Revelation entitled
"The Fifty Final Events in World History"
September 4th. Cheryl Foster will lead our study.

Bring your lunch at 12:45 for fellowship; the study
begins at 1:30. Hope to see you there!

THE KING IS HERE

A CHRISTMAS WORSHIP MUSICAL
for Multi-Generational Choirs

PRESENTED BY THE MUSIC MINISTRY OF
THALIA LYNN BAPTIST CHURCH

Featuring the Christmas Choir, Band,
Orchestra, and KID's Praise Choir of TLBC

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15 AT 6PM

4392 VIRGINIA BEACH BLVD VIRGINIA BEACH, 23462

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Virginia Beach, Virginia 23462
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The graphic features the 'rightnow MEDIA' logo in white on an orange background. Below the logo is the text 'Over 10,000 free videos for you and your family'. To the left is an illustration of a computer monitor displaying a grid of video thumbnails. To the right of the monitor is the quote: '“The Netflix of Christian Bible Study”'.

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