

# The Vision

## From the Pastor's Desk

Prentis McGoldrick  
Senior Pastor



It is easy to surmise that the world is committing more sins than at any other time. That may not be true. The world likes darkness rather than light. Light shines upon everyone's works exposing them for what they are. Christians lived lives that reflected the light of Jesus which exposed evil. Therefore, like rats will scurry when the lights are on, the world hid its evil. It was still there; it just wasn't as public as it is today.

It is also just as easy to assume that the world is more opposed to Christians and Christ than at any other time. After all, the Paris Olympics began with what many say is a parody of the Last Supper. (If it wasn't a parody, the Paris committee who approved this opening ceremony didn't try to prevent it from being interpreted as such. It reminds me of the child who says no one told him not to when he knew full well that he should do whatever it was he did.) Thus, people openly ridicule, denigrate, curse and blaspheme Jesus. However, this is exactly what happened in the New Testament. The soldiers who crucified Jesus ridiculed Him. They spat on Him and hit Him. They treated Him like the religious leaders of the day in looking down on Him. They thought, as the world does today, that the world will be better off without Him.

So, the world is exposing itself for what it really would like to do. Thus, the need for Christ is as vital as it ever was. The Church fell asleep while the world complied with what it wanted. Now, the world is saying that it has no need of the Church, Christians, or Christ. It has said that before. The Church rose up with the testimony of the reality of Christ. Many in the world gave their lives to and for Christ. The world was turned upside down.

Will the Church meet the call again? Many are just hoping for Christ to return so that they won't need to stand up for Christ. In fact, most Christians seem to be seated right now. They seem to be glad they are going to heaven. The rest of the world can go to hell.

Before we condemn the world or just allow the world to be condemned, we should ask ourselves how we have shined the light of Christ in the world today. Who did we tell our salvation story to? Who did we encourage to live for Christ? Are we living in a way that reflects the love of Christ?

Yes, Jesus may return before the world will turn around. That isn't the point. If Jesus comes today, how will He see you shining His light? Do your best to reach someone before the next newsletter comes out.

# NEXT GEN Ministry Momentum

Written by Executive Pastor of  
Ministries: Peggy Peek

## SEE, I AM DOING A NEW THING...

*See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. Isaiah 43:19*

It is September and school has started back for everyone, and our Fall Activities are underway. Some things are the same, but some things are new. In our Kids and Preschool Foyer by door 8, we have begun the installation of 4 murals. Stop by on Sunday morning or Wednesday night to check them out. We commissioned the murals from a local artist, Bob Langston, who is pictured here with the first mural of the Bay Bridge and the "Reach" sailboat. Once the second mural, the "Teach" and "Obey" boats, is installed, we will have the kids vote on a name for the newly refreshed Kids and Preschool Foyer.

Growth and change always brings challenges and sometimes discomfort because most of us rely on the comfort of the familiar. But without growth, there is only decay. We have been working to "**Grow the Church Younger**". Growing older happens without any extra energy or intention. It takes a concerted effort to **Grow Younger**, but we must if we want to survive and thrive with the next generation and the generations beyond that. The church of tomorrow is already here, and we need to nurture and provide a vibrant, healthy ministry for them to thrive. Consider how you can serve in our Next Gen Ministries—our Youth, Kids and Preschool Ministries are ALWAYS in need of volunteers—either every week or once a month. *Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. Lamentations 3:22-23*

grace and peace,  
Peggy 😊



TLBC WLP TLBC-Weekday Learning  
**Preschool**

**REGISTRATION**  
Enroll Now  
2024 - 2025 SCHOOL YEAR  
email WLP Director, Jacque, for more information  
at [jacque@mytowncenterchurch.com](mailto:jacque@mytowncenterchurch.com)

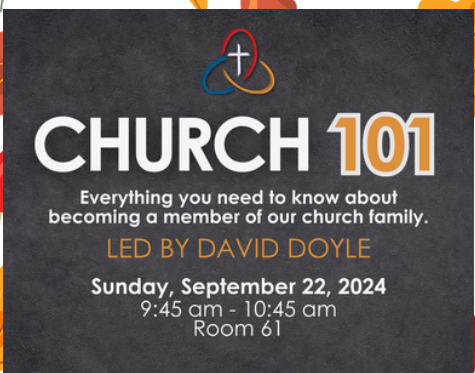
# The XP Corner


David Doyle  
Executive Pastor of Administration

Thalia Lynn Baptist Church funds will not be used to pay/reimburse for gift cards given to volunteers or other persons, whether church members or not. There are at least two reasons for this. First, the IRS considers that a gift card is a cash equivalent, therefore the "cash" would need to be treated, tracked, and reported by the church as taxable income to the card recipient once the card total exceeds the IRS-specified threshold. Regardless of the value of the gift card, the recipient is always obligated to report this income as taxable. Second, the IRS defines a "volunteer" as someone who works for no pay.

According to the IRS, a gift card purchased with church funds and given by the church to a volunteer constitutes payment for work done. Moreover, the IRS has ruled that the volunteer must also be placed in an employee status once the card (or the sum of multiple cards) exceeds the IRS-specified threshold. The church then becomes obligated to add the "volunteer" to its payroll and report his/her "earnings" as taxable income via form 941 and form W2 to the IRS, as it would for any ordinary employee. Once in a payroll status this carries other implications, such as Worker's Compensation Insurance.

While we might not all agree with how the IRS has ruled with regard the use of church money being spent on gift cards, the fact is that the IRS has ruled this way, and the church is thus obligated to comply. Thought you should know that the decision not to use church money to purchase gift cards is not an arbitrary one, but one based in the prudent management of church funds according to the law. Now you know.



  
**CHURCH 101**  
Everything you need to know about becoming a member of our church family.  
LED BY DAVID DOYLE  
Sunday, September 22, 2024  
9:45 am - 10:45 am  
Room 61



  
TLBC MEN'S MINISTRY  
**Knights of the 21st Century**  
KICKOFF BREAKFAST FOR DINNER  
Tuesday Evening  
September 10, 2024  
Join us as we start a new journey this year to earn our Defender dog tags.



*Scheduled*  
**Church Council Meeting**  
SEPTEMBER 22  
3:30 | Fellowship Hall  
  
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE OFFICE AT  
OFFICE@MYTOWNCENTERCHURCH.COM



TLBC PRESENTS  
Special Needs  
**MINISTRY DANCE**  
Free Entry  
DOORS OPEN AT 1:30 PM  
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21



TLBC DISCIPLESHIP  
**DISCIPLESHIP WEDNESDAY**  
Returns on September 4th  
TLBC SMALL GROUPS WILL BE MEETING EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 6PM



*Meal of Remembrance*  
September 15, 2024  
Sanctuary @ 5:00  
Dinner to follow in the Fellowship Hall  
  
Reservations on 8/18, 8/25, 9/1, and 9/8 in the library  
For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me."  
1 Corinthians 11:23-24  
  
SCAN TO REGISTER

# ALMA HUNT OFFERING

For VA Missions  
The Week of Prayer for VA Missions is  
September 8 - September 15

You may give to the Alma Hunt Offering for Virginia Missions anytime during the months of September, October, and November.

Envelopes and Week of Prayer Guides will be available in the Narthex and Portico on Sunday, September 8. You may also give your offering online in Realm.

## 10 IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT ALMA HUNT

1. Alma was born in 1909 in Virginia's Appalachians where she grew up in the First Baptist Church of Roanoke. She died in 2008 in Roanoke, VA.
2. Teaching was her chosen profession, but after attending a mission conference in North Carolina, her enthusiasm for missions soared.
3. Alma became Executive Director for the Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) in 1948 until 1974. Under her leadership WMU membership rose to more than 1.5 million.
4. During her tenure the first National Acteens Convention was held at Glorieta, NM; the first issue to WMU's Spanish language Nuestra Tarea was published; and the Lottie Moon Christmas goal first exceeded \$2 million.
5. Alma traveled to 87 countries to promote the WMU, and as a volunteer consultant from 1976-1979 for women's work overseas, she developed women in leadership and service in 45 nations.
6. Retiring in 1985 she still continued to speak at churches, civic groups, and religious groups as an advocate for women's involvement in missions and the overall mission of God.
7. Alma's lifetime service was honored by several organizations. The national WMU headquarters in Birmingham, AL named its archives the Alma Hunt Museum, where her personal mission's memorabilia can be found. The John Leland Center for Theological Studies named its library the Alma Hunt Library.
8. In 1997 the Alma Hunt Cottage was built in Salem, VA as part of the developmental disabilities' ministry of Hope Tree Family Services.
9. The Alma Hunt Offering for Virginia Missions was named in her honor in 1998.
10. --Alma will be remembered as one of Baptists' best-know missions' advocates who selflessly served others and actively sought to develop woman leaders. When Virginia Baptists were shaping a new vision for the 21st century, Alma was its first champion.

(For more information: [WWW.ALMAHUNT.ORG](http://WWW.ALMAHUNT.ORG))

THEN I HEARD THE VOICE OF THE LORD SAYING, "WHOM SHALL I SEND? AND WHO WILL GO FOR US?" AND I SAID, "HERE AM I. SEND ME!"  
ISAIAH 6:8

MISSION:  
*Willing*

ALMA HUNT OFFERING  
*for Virginia Missions*

SEPTEMBER 8-15, 2024 | [ALMAHUNT.ORG](http://ALMAHUNT.ORG)



# JOY NOTES

by Sharon Walpole

Have you ever considered how much time is wasted at stoplights? In particular, the light at the intersection of Virginia Beach Blvd. and Cavalier Way to turn into the church parking lot? The worst scenario is when the left turn lane seems to miss a turn or two in the normal cycle of red-yellow-green. It just happened to me last week on the way to Music Camp—it skipped me three times!

Then on Wednesday, my brother posted his daily devotion on FaceBook which convicted me.

“Fred sits in his car, glaring angrily at the red traffic light—one minute, two minutes, three minutes! You would think for those little side roads they would have only a one-minute green light. There—only two cars went through the entire time that he and the other motorists on the main road were waiting! How frustrating! Those lights always seem to turn red just as you drive up.

“Behind Fred, in another car, sits Tom. But he does not mind the light a bit. It gives him a chance to learn another Bible verse. He has a new one in a stand on the dashboard, and is saying it over and over. By the time the light changes, he will have another verse to use in witnessing!

“It is estimated that the average motorist spends 26 hours a year waiting for traffic signals to change. If Fred and Tom are average motorists, then Fred will spend 26 hours a year running his blood pressure up in angry frustration, and Tom will spend 26 hours a year memorizing God’s Word so he will be a better servant of Jesus Christ.

“Fred reflects a large percentage of the attitude of the world, while Tom exhibits traits of a follower of Christ. Why? Because Tom was not conformed to the world, but transformed by the renewing of his mind as in Romans 12:2: ‘Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is . . .’ Tom used the time to renew his mind, and became more informed—and conformed.”

So I commit to make a change at stoplights. What a better use of time it will be to renew my mind in God’s Word by refreshing my memory with “Experiencing God” verses or others. My heart, mind, and blood pressure will be better for it!

*“I have hidden Your word in my heart that I might not sin against You.”  
Psalm 119:11*



# BAPTISM SUNDAY

Every third Sunday during both services as needed.  
Help us welcome the new members of our Church Family.



## Music & Me

Wednesdays @ 10:00 a.m.  
September 11, 18, 25, Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30


Age-appropriate music and movement for Children, Birth through pre-K, accompanied by a parent or caregiver.  
Contact Sharon at 757.499.0557 if you would like more information.



**JAPANESE MARITIME SECURITY DEFENSE FORCE JOINT BAND CONCERT**  
UNITED STATES NAVY FLEET FORCES

**SEPTEMBER 23 AT 7:00**

THALIA LYNN BAPTIST CHURCH SANCTUARY



# 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!



JOY MINISTRY DINNER  
SEPTEMBER 20, 2024  
6:00 P.M.

# RETRO NIGHT

VOCAL GROUP: FOND MEMORIES  
SONGS FROM THE 50'S, 60'S, & 70'S

MENU: FRIED CHICKEN, MAC/CHEESE, GREEN BEANS, BANANA PUDDING  
\$10 PER PERSON | RESERVATION BY SEPT. 8

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