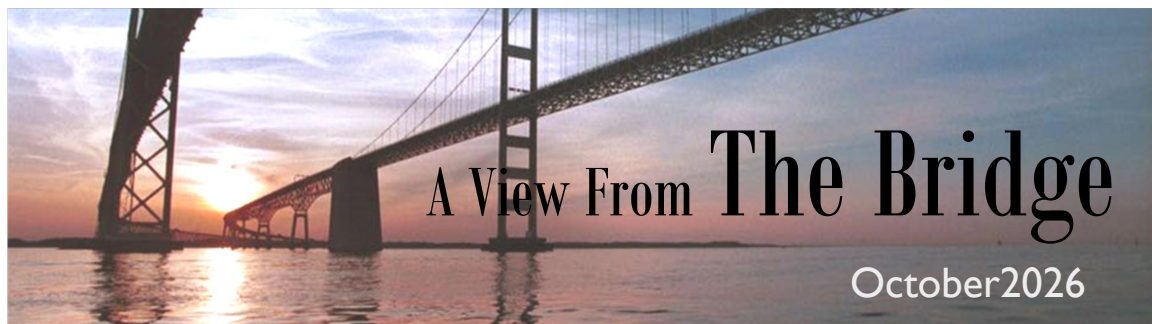




A View From The Bridge

October 2026

Jesus Christ Yesterday Today Forever

Great Neck Baptist Church
1020 General Jackson Dr.
Virginia Beach, 23454

OCT.
22
2026

Afternoon Session: 4:30PM

Dinner: \$8; 6PM

Creamy Lemon Thyme Chicken

Meeting: 7PM

To Register:

Email: admin@thebridgenet.org

Call: 757-938-9793

Scan the QR Code



Dr. Bill Korver



CAROLINA COLLEGE
of BIBLICAL STUDIES



How to Stop Being So Cynical

Dr. Lynn Hardaway



Carey Nieuwhof, in his book, *Didn't See It Coming: Overcoming the 7 Greatest Challenges That No One Expects and Everyone Experiences*, addresses the infectious cynicism which can sour the

spirit of a Christian leader. We start out with great optimism, which gives way to realism which decays into cynicism by knowing too much, projecting the past into the future (we stop seeing potential and only see potential hurt) and deciding to stop trusting people.

When we care about people and they injure us or leave or betray our confidence, it is natural to respond with self-protective measures to keep from being wounded again. As Carey says, ***"Cynicism begins not because you don't care but because you do care; you cared and got burned."***

It is easy to miss the warning signs about cynicism because we are too focused on the external metrics of success (attendance, offerings, baptisms, etc.).



Nieuwhof's five-action plan to interrupt cynicism:

- **Schedule Thinking Time.** Busyness is the enemy of wonder and awe.
- **Ask Open-Ended Questions.** Move past extracting data to exploring ideas.
- **Give Fewer Answers:** Volley back: what do *you* think?
- **Dream More:** Settle for the possible, not just the probable.
- **Ask Why and Why Not?** Widen your universe when others narrow theirs.

A key quote from this chapter in the book: ***"Curious people are never cynical, and cynical people are never curious."***

WMU ANNUAL MEETING

The **WMU** is hosting our **73rd** Annual WMU Meeting on Tuesday, **October 13th, 10am-1pm**, at **Norview Baptist Church**, 1127 Norview Ave, Norfolk. Come celebrate Missions with us! Cy Carlton is our guest speaker, and lunch will be provided.



Speaker

Courtney Veasey

SAVE THE DATE

Feb 27, 2027

Thalia Lynn Baptist Church

THE BRIDGE
Network of Churches

BABY BOUTIQUE

Baby Boutique is preparing to do what we can to help mothers prepare their little ones for the cooler weather! We offer a one time visit for moms (or dads) in need to get free items for their children age newborn thru around age 2. Our clothing goes up to a size 2. We have many other items suitable for this age group, but our inventory varies depending on what donations are received. If you know of anyone in your church or community who could use our help, please have them go to www.thebridgenet.org and fill out a Baby Boutique application which is found under the resource tab. Once received we will contact them for an appointment.

We rely on help from the community when it comes to keeping our boutique well stocked. We accept new or gently used clothing up to size 2 or 24 months and most other items suitable for newborn up to around age 2. There are some items that we do not accept so if you have items to donate, please contact me directly for more info on what we accept and do not accept and information on when and where to drop off items. We are currently in need of size 1 disposable diapers, size 2 or 24 month boys' new or gently used fall/winter clothing, infant swaddlers, blankets, towels, crib sheets, baby shampoo and baby wash, lotion, infant thermometers, infant nail clippers, new pacifiers, burp cloths, and new or used books. As always, thank you for any help and a big shoutout to those who have donated recently! I don't always know where our donations come from!

Bonnie Cuthriell, Director
(757)681-7056



Finishing 2026 Well

By Kim Jessie



As we finish 2026, we can easily get caught up in the whirlwind of holiday planning, special services, and administrative deadlines. However, the end of the year provides an

opportunity to pause, reflect, and prioritize how we close this season. Finishing the year well is not just about crossing the finish line; it is about preparing our hearts and ministries for what lies ahead in 2027.

Here is a five-step process to help you and your team finish this year well and begin 2027 with strength and clarity.

1. Review What God Led You to Do

Before looking at your spreadsheets or calendars, reflect on your original calling for this ministry year. Begin with the specific vision God laid upon your heart for your ministry. Revisit your initial goals, prayers, and strategic plans. Reminding yourself of the assignment you were given helps you evaluate your progress based on faithfulness to God's direction, rather than just the numbers.



2. Praise God for What Was Accomplished

Ministry is spiritual work, and every victory belongs to the Lord. Take time individually and with your team to cultivate a culture of gratitude. Where did you see lives transformed, prayers answered, or needs met? Make a physical list of these moments. Actively praising God for these successes shifts your focus away from what went wrong and grounds your team in the reality of God's constant faithfulness.



3. Celebrate With Your Leaders What Was Accomplished

Your ministry does not run on your effort alone; it thrives because of your leaders and volunteers. Do not let the year end without letting them know their labor was not in vain. Share the wins directly with them. Write thank-you notes, host a simple appreciation gathering, or share specific stories of ministry impact. When you celebrate with your team, you validate their sacrifice, strengthen their commitment, and invite them into the joy of the harvest.



4. Focus on What Still Needs to Get Done

Finishing well requires a realistic look at the remaining weeks on the calendar. Look closely at your current projects to determine what must be completed before year end.



Identify what needs to be done, when it needs to be completed, who is responsible for each task, and how you will follow up. Focusing on the important ensures that your primary goals are completed on time.

5. Plan for the New Year

First, seek God's face, then start strategic planning for the new year. The momentum you built this year is the fuel for your next season. Identify what things worked exceptionally well and why they worked. Use those insights as a blueprint. Instead of reinventing the wheel, build upon the healthy foundations you have already laid and adapting those successful frameworks to meet the new vision and goals God is prompting for the future.



By taking the time to review, praise, celebrate, focus, and plan, we honor the season we are leaving behind while stepping confidently into the year ahead.



PASTORS' WIVES GATHERING

Eastern Shore: Thursday, October 15th, 5:30pm;
Little Italy; Nassawadox



Staff and Spouse Birthdays

3	Alex Zabel	Horizon
4	Kit Laxton	Exmore
7	Ruth Castleberry	Great Bridge
8	Yvonne Price	Holy Trinity
8	Connie Inman	Black Creek
15	Jay Albritton	Life Point
16	Chris Cunningham	GO
23	Jerry Tucker	Catalyst
23	Robin Houston	Point Harbor
25	Pedro Sanchez	Mappsville
25	Aubrey Houston	Point Harbor
26	Bruce Purnell	First Camelot
28	Martin Jones	First View



1407 Stephanie Way
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Chesapeake, VA 23320

LEGIT

The Truth Is Out There

DNOW

DNOW is an opportunity for Student Ministries across Virginia to Unite for a time of Deep Teaching, Inspirational Worship, and Epic Games!

To register: scan QR code or visit,
www.thebridgenet.org/dnowregistration

November 6th & 7th

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Virginia Beach, VA 23464

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Leadership & Ministry Strategist
Finance Secretary
Office Secretary

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