



A View From The Bridge

January 2024

The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

Psalm 18:2

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, January 25, 11:30am

If you are a Pastor or a Lay Representative of a Network church, this meeting is for you. This meeting reviews the business that will be presented at the Annual Spring meeting.

You may attend either in person (at the office) or via Zoom. Seating at the office is limited, so pre-registering is a must. To register, please email admin@thebridgenet.org or call 757-938-9793.

Happy
New
Year!



Save the Date
2024 Women's Conference

Ignite Hope: Renewed by the Spirit

Cast Off the Old Life
Be Renewed by the Spirit
Live a New Life of Hope
and Righteousness

9:00-12:00
Saturday, March 23
Thalia Lynn Baptist Church
4392 Virginia Beach Blvd.
Virginia Beach, VA 23462

January Staff and Spouse Birthdays

4 Tom Tuttle	Point Harbor
19 Greg Brinson	London Bridge
19 Valerie Lee	Collinswood Agape
22 Bill Heffelfinger	Acts 2
26 Tinney Parrish	Central
28 Judy Liu	First Chinese
29 Joe Price	Holy Trinity
29 Jen Zabel	Horizon
31 Marisa Sanchez	Cape Charles

CHURCH NEWS

Spurgeon Church is excited to announce the Ordination into the Gospel Ministry of Gabriel Vega. He will serve as Associate Pastor at the church. Congratulations to Gabriel Vega!

PRESCHOOL AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES BRUNCH

9:30 AM
Thursday, January 11
Brickhouse Diner
941 Providence Square
Shopping Center
Virginia Beach, VA
(We will gather for fellowship and to continue planning our fall preschool and children's ministry training.)



STUDENT MINISTRY LEADERS LUNCH

12:00 Noon
Thursday, February 1
Ynot Restaurant
1036 Volvo Parkway
Chesapeake, VA



WHY OUR FAMILY TITHES, (3)

A third reason our family tithes from our God-given income is to increase our faith and enlarge the kingdom of God.

3. We Tithe for Advancement

"Without faith, it is impossible to please God," (Hebrews 11:6) and **faith always involves risk**. What we say we believe means very little unless it moves us to action, and those actions should reflect our deeply held conviction that God will take care of our needs. What we have learned together is that He leads us from a little faith to a larger faith by providing in ways that defy the normal order of things.

We believe God's promise in Malachi 3:10-12 is still active and that **marvelous things will happen** that would not have occurred if we had not tithed, as any regular tither can testify.

We also realize **the tithes of God's people fund His work through the local church**. According to one reputable source, the average Christian in the United States gives 2.5 percent of their income to their church. Think of the millions of "opened windows in heaven" that have remained closed because of the missed opportunities to tithe! Consider the size of the gospel outreach and harvest that will not happen if God's people do not tithe. So, we choose to be a tithing family to support true kingdom growth.

Here's a New Year's challenge for you: **try tithing for three months** and see what God does to supply your needs. Better yet, **make a one-year commitment** as a family or individual to give a tenth of your income to the Lord through your local church. At the end of 2024, assess your spiritual growth and your financial situation and you will be able to give God thanks for His provisions.

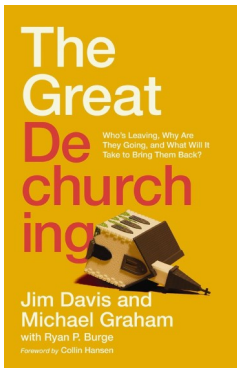
Pastors' Upcoming Events

Pastors' Prayer Breakfast: Tuesday, January 9, 7am-8am, Indian River Baptist Church.

Discipling Leaders: Thursday, March 14, 10am-2pm, location to be determined.

Spring meeting: Thursday, April 18, Dinner 6pm, Service 7pm, New Song Fellowship.

Dr. Mark Croston meetings on the Eastern Shore: May 17-19



PASTORS' BOOK STUDY

January 4 - February 8
10am-11am; Zoom

Pastor, join us for a six-week group discussion/study of a truly enlightening and helpful book, *"The Great Dechurching: Who's Leaving, Why Are They Going, and What Will It Take to Bring Them Back?"* by Jim Davis,

Michael Graham, Ryan P. Burge and Collin Hansen (2023, Zondervan).

"We are currently experiencing the largest and fastest religious shift in US history.

It is greater than the First and Second Great Awakening and every revival in our country combined...but in the opposite direction. Yet precious little rigorous study has been done on the broad phenomenon of dechurching in America. Jim Davis and Michael Graham have commissioned the largest and most comprehensive study of dechurching in America by renowned sociologists Dr. Ryan Burge and Dr. Paul Djupe.

The Great Dechurching takes the insights gleaned from this study to drill down on how exactly people are dechurching with respect to beliefs, behavior, and belonging.

This book gives the church in America its first ever deep dive into the dechurched phenomenon. You'll learn about the dechurched through a detailed sketch of demographics, size, core concerns, church off-ramps, historical roots, and the gravity of what is at stake. Then you'll explore what can be done to slow the bleed, engage the pertinent issues winsomely and wisely, and hopefully re-church some of the dechurched."

To register for the class call the Network office at 757-938-9793 or send an email to: finsec@thebridgenet.org.

Amazon link: [The Great Dechurching: Who's Leaving, Why Are They Going, and What Will It Take to Bring Them Back?: Davis, Jim, Graham, Michael, Burge, Ryan P., Collin Hansen: 9780310147435: Amazon.com: Books](https://www.amazon.com/dp/9780310147435)



Norfolk Area Pastors' Wives' Brunch

11:00 AM
Thursday, January 4
The Bread Box Café
3157 Virginia Beach Blvd.
Virginia Beach, VA



Western District Pastors' Wives' Lunch

11:30 AM
Tuesday, January 30
Serve Restaurant
102 N Main St.
Franklin, VA



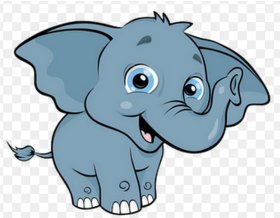
LOOKING AHEAD...

Annual Spring meeting will be Thursday, April 18 at New Song Fellowship in Virginia Beach. Dinner will begin at 6pm and the meeting will begin at 7pm. More information to come. Mark your calendars now to attend.



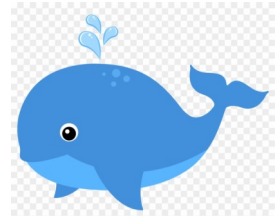
1407 Stephanie Way
Suite F
Chesapeake, VA 23320

BABY BOUTIQUE



Baby, it's still cold outside! BUT, over at Baby Boutique we are getting ready for those warm weather babies! Donations keep us going and we are in need of spring and summer clothing. For boys our specific need is for size 9 months and size 24 months/size 2. For girls we need size 3 months, 6 & 9 months, and 24 months/size 2. Of course, we will gladly accept any sizes NB-size 2 and any season for boys and girls, too, and any other items suitable for that age group except cribs or car seats and a few other items. Feel free to contact me directly if you have questions or to arrange for a donation drop off. We are forever grateful to all who donate! We don't always know where donations come from, but please know that we are always thankful! If you know of anyone in your church or neighborhood who could benefit from our boutique, please have them go to www.thebridgenet.org and fill out an application for Baby Boutique that can be found on the Resource tab's drop down menu. We will contact them to set up an appointment. Thank you!

Bonnie Cuthriell, Director
(757)681-7056



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Staff Connections

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