



# A View From The Bridge

February 2024

By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.

John 13:35



THE BRIDGE NETWORK OF CHURCHES

**IGNITE HOPE:  
RENEWED BY THE SPIRIT** Eph. 4:22-24

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



# WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

**SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2024**

**9 A.M. - NOON**

**Thalia Lynn Baptist Church**



**SPEAKER: BRENDA M. CROSTON, M ED**  
*Croston Ministries International*  
*Simple Truth Publishing*

**CHILDCARE IS AVAILABLE FROM  
8:30 A.M. - NOON FOR CHILDREN AGES 2 - 5 YRS.  
LIMITED SPACE, REGISTER EARLY.**

**Thalia Lynn Baptist Church**  
4392 Virginia Beach Blvd., Virginia Beach, VA 23462



Register here!



**There will be a bonus  
Afterglow with a box lunch  
from Chick-fil-a at 12:30 p.m.**

**Cost: \$10 per person  
Registration is required.**

### REGISTRATION:

**\$25** early bird through February 14  
**\$30** February 15 - March 22 at noon  
**\$35** at the door

Special group rate offer for 10 or more, call 757-938-9793  
or email [admin@thebridgenet.org](mailto:admin@thebridgenet.org)  
for group special pricing information.

### CONFERENCE HOTEL

Residence Inn  
221 Bendix Rd.  
Virginia Beach, VA 23452

Call 757-648-8500 and use code  
"BNC" for  
conference pricing.

## February Staff and Spouse

### Birthdays

4	Yvonne Wells	Rivercrest
7	Pam Robertson	Red Bank
8	Margaret McLewin	Ingleside
8	Vivian Ramsay	Modest Town
11	Jenny Layne	Parkley
13	Amy Tucker	Cataylst
15	Bert Kirk	Indian River
16	Brent Hobbs	New Song
17	Karen Daniels	Indian River
22	Elizabeth Brinson	London Bridge
24	Johnny Houston	Point Harbor
25	Angie Chivers	New Heights

*Happy Birthday!!*

## STUDENT MINISTRY LEADERS LUNCH

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



## CHURCH NEWS

**LifePoint:** Will be celebrating their 10th Anniversary on the weekend of February 16-18, Congratulations!

## PRESCHOOL AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES BRUNCH

9:30 AM  
Thursday, March 7  
Brickhouse Diner  
941 Providence Square  
Shopping Center  
Virginia Beach, VA



## ANNUAL MISSION PROJECT

We will be collecting items for the Crisis Pregnancy Centers on both sides of the Bay. The **Centers on the Southside** would like **NEW** infant car seats. Due to State laws they can only distribute brand new car seats. Please purchase one in neutral colors so it may be used for either baby boys or girls. The **Centers on the Eastern Shore** need baby shampoo, baby wash, baby oil, baby lotion, diaper ointment, wipes, pacifiers, bottles, hooded towels, wash cloths, crib & bassinet sheets, baby socks, burp cloths, receiving blankets, fleece blankets, sleepers of all sizes, onesies of all sizes, and bibs. The deadline for the collection is our Annual Spring Meeting on April 18th.



## PASTORS' UPCOMING EVENTS

**Pastors' Prayer Breakfast:** first Tuesday of each month, next one is February 6, 7am at Indian River Baptist Church.

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

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

## 2024/2025 SCHOLARSHIP



The 2024/2025 educational scholarship application is now available on our website under the Resource tab: <https://www.thebridgenet.org/scholarship>. Student must be a member of a Network church. The deadline is April 10 at 3pm.

## SURVEY

Be watching for a survey coming out via email in February. It will be a few questions to help us identify what you want/need in leadership development for yourself and for your church members.



## LOOKING AHEAD...



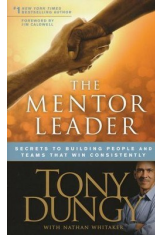
**Annual Spring meeting** will be **Thursday, April 18 at New Song Fellowship in Virginia Beach.** Dinner will begin at 6pm and the meeting will begin at 7pm. More information to come.

Mark your calendars now to attend.

## LEADING MEANS GROWING

By Lynn Hardaway

Tony Dungy, in his book, *The Mentor Leader*, quotes an old Irish proverb: **“You’ve got to do your own growing, no matter how tall your grandfather was.”** Surveying where we have come from as leaders, where we are and where we are going, **this is the time for us to grow** into our role as influencers to the people who are alive in this present generation.

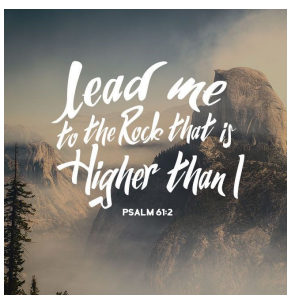


Because many are confused about so many issues, we must stand **compassionately firm** among a people who cannot see the light of the gospel because the enemy has blinded their minds to truth.

It can *feel* overwhelming when we consider the astonishing changes happening all around us, on every side; but it is *not* overwhelming to us because it is not overwhelming to our God.



David shared these feelings of being engulfed by the seemingly out-of-control events surrounding Absalom’s rebellion. The nation was in peril, David’s acceptance as king was in question, his own family was torn by competing and divisive narratives. His emotions were swirling and unstable as he wondered about the future. It is possible the news of Absalom’s death at Joab’s hand had just reached him. In his despair, he picks up his harp and writes a psalm to encourage the tabernacle priests and set the tone for the nation’s reunification.



*“When my heart is overwhelmed; Lead me to the rock that is higher than I.*

*For You have been a shelter for me, A strong tower from the enemy. I will abide in Your tent forever; I will trust in the shelter of Your wings.”*

David acknowledged his fear, but he knew God lives above the changing world, unflustered by the demanding cries of rebellious creatures, unmoved by the fickle changes in administrations, unafraid of a nation’s slipping away from His favor. Higher than our concerns about the future is God’s unyielding and sovereign grip on the destiny of His creation. This one truth should calm our hearts and minds

and provide the ‘shelter’ we need to protect and strengthen our confidence in Him.

**The faltering king transitioned to the mindset of a skilled and certain leader because he spent time in God’s presence.** “Your tent” was, in David’s thoughts, the place where God lived. “Your wings” was a reference to the golden cherubim on the ark of the covenant. Our greatest asset in these shifting and rudderless times is God’s presence through a personal walk with Him each day.

It is there, at His feet, we will grow into the leaders He needs for such a time as this!



THE BRIDGE NETWORK OF CHURCHES

2024 Pastors' Wives' Retreat

STRENGTHENED TO ENDURE  
PHIL. 4:13  
A TIME OF FUN, LAUGHTER, ENCOURAGEMENT, PRAYER, AND SISTERHOOD

6:00 PM, FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 2024

NEW LOCATION:  
RESIDENCE INN VB TOWN CENTER  
221 BENDIX RD, VIRGINIA BEACH

TO REGISTER FOR THE FREE BANQUET:  
CALL 757-938-9793 OR  
EMAIL ADMIN@THEBRIDGENET.ORG

TO RESERVE YOUR ROOM:  
CALL 757-648-8500 CODE: BNC  
ROOM SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE  
CALL/TEXT KIM 757-572-6134



1407 Stephanie Way  
Suite F  
Chesapeake, VA 23320

### ***BABY BOUTIQUE***

Baby Boutique loves babies and loves being able to help! We offer a one time visit to those who need a little extra help with their babies age newborn thru age 2. We have clothing up to size 2 and various other items suitable for that age group. If you know of anyone who could use our help, please have them go to [www.thebridgenet.org](http://www.thebridgenet.org) and fill out a Baby Boutique application that can be found on the Resource tab's drop down menu. Someone will contact them for an appointment. Since we run on donations, we are currently in need of boys clothing in size 9 months and size 2 and girls clothing in sizes 3 months, 6 months and 9 months. We also need infant towels, washcloths and crib sheets and as always, disposable diapers in sizes NB-size 6. We gladly accept most baby items except cribs, car seats and a few other items. We accept new or gently used items. Please call me if you have donations or questions about donations. Thank you!

Bonnie Cuthriell, Director  
(757)681-7056



**Office Phone:** [757-938-9793](tel:757-938-9793)

Network Missionary  
Leadership & Ministry Strategist  
Support Team Leader  
Office Secretary-Norfolk  
Office Secretary-Eastern Shore

#### **Staff Connections**

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