



A View From The Bridge

September 2022



Annual Fall Meeting

Thursday, October 27

Coastal Community Church

2800 S. Independence Blvd., Virginia Beach

We will be returning to the messenger process as things are returning to normal. It will be a dinner and evening meeting only. More information will be sent out this month.

How Do I “Restart” My Ministry in This Church?

PUSH TO RESTART

In my recent conversations with pastors across the region, a recurring thread of discussion has risen to the surface: ***“How do I lead the church forward from here?”*** The pandemic and its after-effects have dropped our attendance and income dangerously low; what can we do to survive and



thrive beyond this predicament?” Long-tenured pastors are wondering if they have what it takes to “bring the church back.” Part-time pastors struggle to find the time and energy for people who seem to have lost the fervor and interest they once had in the church.

In my time with the Lord, He keeps pushing me to share with you what I have learned during the “lean years” of pastoring. So, the next few articles are my obedience to Him and I “hope” these simple thoughts will help you find the courage to **“Push to Restart!”**

My first pastorate lasted almost twenty years and was in the Western Branch section of Chesapeake. We grew, in spurts, from fifty attenders to a high of about four hundred and fifty during that time. When the seventh year came around, I was out of ideas. We hit the proverbial “wall” in attendance and could not get through it. My internal musings

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SEPTEMBER
STAFF AND SPOUSE
BIRTHDAYS

1 Bobby Parks	First New Church
5 Deborah Scott	Temple
5 Deloris Pettaway	Park Place
5 Kristy Johnson	Holland
8 Andre Salley	Trinity WOF
11 Cathy Jones	First View
12 Sharon McCoy	Discovery
14 Stephanie Juliot	Eastville
14 Julie Albritton	LifePoint
15 Tony Kohout	Buford Road
18 Dave Combs	Christ First, Norfolk
19 Katie DIninny	OV
22 Kim Chafee	King's Grant
24 Hank Brooks	Coastal
26 Tim McLendon	Cornerstone

PUSH TO RESTART

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kept me wondering if God was finished with me there; maybe I should put my resume out and see if I could find another church where I would be excited and energized again.

I loved the people and the community; I just could not find the motivation to push myself toward the next chapter of our congregational life. In my heart, I did not want to leave; I had led many of the people to Christ and I knew the potential for a great future existed for the church. I just seriously doubted that I would be the one who could lead them there.



A thought came to me from the Lord one morning, and it became the first thought to reframe my thinking:

“SUPPOSE YOU LEFT AND A NEW PASTOR CAME TO TAKE YOUR PLACE. HOW WOULD HE SEE THE CHURCH DIFFERENTLY THAN YOU SEE IT? WHAT ACTIONS WOULD HE TAKE TO GET THE CHURCH MOVING FORWARD?”

Several days were spent answering that question in my heart and mind. In fact, I knew exactly what I would have led the church to do if I were the *new* pastor.

“SO DO THOSE THINGS.”

We did, and the church “revived” because *I* revived.

Pastor, ask yourself this question in your post-pandemic setting: ***What would the next pastor do differently?*** See the church from his eyes. Every person would be a ‘10’ on the potential scale. The surrounding community would be an open mission field. People would need to be taught to give to support the mission of the church. New outreaches would need to be envisioned and implemented.



The challenge for pastors who have been through so many experiences with a church is to not allow themselves to be jaded or boxed in by the past. A new pastor would have no history, so would have the advantage of naivete towards the ministry. All things would be possible in his sight.

Take a sheet of paper and write at the top: ***“What I would do if I were the next pastor of this church?”*** Then, just start writing. Set aside your self-perceived hindrances and doubts and imagine yourself sitting in your chair as a brand-new pastor of your church. Think like he would think. Ask the Lord to help you think it through.

Be wary of falling back into your negative thought patterns

BABY BOUTIQUE



Cooler weather is around the corner and we have some cute clothes and shoes for little ones size NB to size 2 at Baby Boutique. We offer a one time visit for moms who could use some help. In addition to clothes we also

have various other items to choose from. Our inventory varies based on our donations. If you know of someone in your church or community who would benefit from our boutique, please have them go online to www.thebridgenet.org under Resource tab and fill out a Baby Boutique application. When I receive the application I will be in touch to make an appointment.

Thank you to everyone who has so generously donated recently! We greatly appreciate each and every one of you! Our current needs are diapers in sizes 4, 5 and 6, toiletries such as shampoos, lotions and diaper cream, and boys and girls clothing in sizes 12 month to size 2. If anyone has donations, please contact me directly to schedule drop off arrangements.

Bonnie Cuthriell, Director
(757) 681-7056



and think thoughts of hope and faith (belief) and a future with God in it.

Dream again! Wake yourself up from the sleepy lethargy that has accompanied you lately. Like forcing yourself to wake up from a horrible dream, ***push yourself to see your situation in a new light.***



“Therefore He says: “Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light.”” (Ephesians 5:14, NKJV)

The FIRST STEP to RESTARTING is to PUSH YOURSELF BY ASKING THE RIGHT QUESTION.

Having your list is one thing; knowing what to do with it is the second step, and we will consider that in the next article.

Dr. Donald Lynn Hardaway
Network Missionary

MIGRANT MINISTRY HYGIENE KITS

Marisa Sanchez ministers to the migrant workers on the Eastern Shore each year by providing hygiene kits, translation services, worship services, and children's activities. Each year, many migrant workers and their family members accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior because of the ministry she provides.



Marisa is running out of the hygiene kits which are a crucial part of the ministry she leads. Delivering the hygiene kits creates a first contact with the newly arrived farm workers and opens the door for spiritual conversations, invitations to worship services, and building trust with family groups.

You can help this vital ministry by providing the following **full-size** items:

Shampoo, Soap, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste
New or gently used Towels

You can help by donating the items listed above or by creating a hygiene kit(s) by placing a full-size shampoo, soap, toothbrush, and toothpaste in a large ziplock baggie and neatly folding the towel.

Please deliver items and kits to the Bridge Network office, 1407 Stephanie Way, Suite F, Chesapeake 23320 by 2:30 on **Thursday, September 1**. All items will be delivered to the Eastern Shore on Wednesday, September 7.

Hours for deliveries:

Monday-Thursday, 8:30-2:30

Friday, 8:30-11:30

For information: call 757-938-9793

email: admin@thebridgenet.org

Thank you for your support of this vital ministry,
Kim Jessie

2022/23 LEADERSHIP LAB

Starting in September, we will offer Christian leadership training for ministry and marketplace leaders (and future leaders) to improve their leadership and influence at work, church, and home. The process includes 10 training sessions and up to 10 personal coaching sessions for personal leadership growth and development.

Participants Learn How To:

- Identify Their God-given Strengths & Talents
- Discover Their God-given Vision, Mission, & Purpose
- Establish & Utilize SMART Goals
- Communicate Effectively
- Build a Healthy Team
- Deal with Difficult People
- Resolve Conflict
- Lead & Manage Change
- Coach & Mentor Others
- Establish & Maintain Healthy Boundaries



Day Classes are Tuesday mornings from 10:00-12:00 on the following dates:

Day Classes: Sept. 13, Oct. 4, Nov. 1, Dec. 6, Jan. 10, Feb. 7, March 7, March 28, May 2, and June 6

Evening Classes are Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:30 PM on the following dates:

Evening Classes: Sept. 15, Oct. 13, Nov. 3, Dec. 1, Jan. 5, Feb. 2, March 2, March 30, May 4, and June 1.

Groups that want to conduct their own Leadership Labs can connect with Kim to discuss options.

Cost: Free to members of The Bridge Network of Churches. Nonmembers can contact Kim for costs.

Location: Bridge Network, 1407 Stephanie Way, Ste. F, Chesapeake, VA.

For more information or to register, please contact Kim at 757-572-6134 or kjessie@thebridgenet.org.



1407 Stephanie Way
Suite F
Chesapeake, VA 23320

Church News

Central: has an opening for a part-time secretary, three days a week. Requires strong computer skills including Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Publisher. If interested, please send a resume to cbcsec123@verizon.net.

First Camelot: will be hosting a "Men In Black Celebration" on September 11, 2pm. The focus of this service is to promote Brotherhood and Fellowship among brethren and the Praise of Almighty God. Donations to their building fund will be accepted. Everyone is invited to attend.

Green Lakes: is looking for a church pianist. Requirements are to play for Sunday morning services, choir practices on Wednesday and any special events that are needed. If interested, please send a resume to the church's address, 1610 Hodges Ferry Road, Portsmouth 23701, ATTN: Music Ministry or call 757-488-5911.

Oak Grove: is selling a 2007 Chevy 3500 Diesel 29 passenger van with a wheel chair lift, \$25,000. Contact Steve Boyer, 757-692-5432 or email mboyer3@cox.net.

Sedley: is hosting a fund raising BBQ dinner on September 24, 11am-2pm, at Savage Patch Farms located on Armory Drive, Franklin. The dinner will benefit the Kentucky and Tennessee Tornado Disaster Relief. Please email Pastor Jim Foreman at pastorjimshbc@yahoo.com with the number of meals you will be needing. The cost is \$10 per dinner.

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