THE BRIDGE
Network of Churches



A View From The Bridge

November/December 2026

Thanksgiving & Christmas

Thanks be to God
for His inexpressible gift!

2 Corinthians 9:15

Lynn Hardaway
Kim Jessie
Phyllis Wroton
Debbie Bradshaw
David & Nichole Hensley



Staff and Spouse Birthdays

4	Terri Combs	Christ First
4	Dahlia Cunningham	GO
4	Lisa Hogan	Journey
8	Mark Layne	Parksley
10	Brenda Parks	First New Church
10	Lauren Tremper	CrossRoads
10	Jay McCoy	Discovery
11	Jeff Conrow	Lower Northampton
16	Jake Scott	Coastal
17	Rodney Burns	Christ Chosen
20	Jonathan Carpenter	Exmore
21	Todd Woolston	Real Life
22	Andre Chambers	One Generation
23	Karen McGoldrick	Thalia Lynn
28	Richard Castleberry	Great Bridge Baptist
29	Cecelia Hall	Manna
29	Randy Chivers	New Heights

Mark Your Calendar!

Executive Committee Meeting

January 28, 2027; 11am

If you are a Network pastor or Lay Representative, this meeting is for you. It will be via Zoom and in the office.

Spaces are limited at the office so please email admin@thebridgenet.org or call 757-938-9793 to reserve your spot.

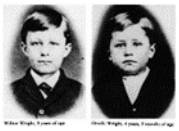


Staff and Spouse Birthdays

1	Horacio Hall	Faithway
3	Jessica Morelos	Point Harbor
5	Aaron Dininny	OV
5	Russell Fail	Broadway
5	Matthew Johnson	Holland
7	Renita Burns	Christ Chosen
9	Tanya Vega	Spurgeon
9	Cheryl Conrow	Lower Northampton
11	Steve Moses	Woodland Hts
17	Caitlin Heffelfinger	Acts 2
18	Antonio Woolard	St. Paul
21	Larry Soblotne	Whitehead's Grove
21	Doug DeLong	Eastville
22	Gail Kohout	Buford Road
26	David Pettaway	Park Place

A Toy That Changed the Future

Dr. Lynn Hardaway

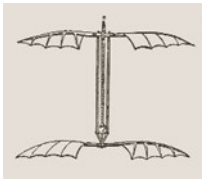


In the fall of 1878, Milton Wright returned from his travels on church business with a gift for his two youngest sons that would play a role in changing the course of human invention.

Orville Wright retold the story in a 1908 article for *The Century Magazine.*

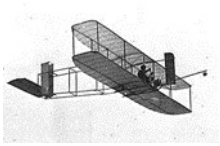
Their father entered the room of their home in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, holding something concealed between his hands:

"Before we could see what it was, he tossed it into the air. Instead of falling to the floor, as we expected, it flew across the room till it struck the ceiling, where it fluttered awhile, and finally sank to the floor."



The brothers were captivated by the machine and nicknamed it "the Bat." It was a toy helicopter designed by French aviation pioneer Alphonse Pénaud in 1870. Constructed from bamboo, cork and lightweight paper, it was powered by a twisted rubber band that drove twin counter-rotating propellers.

Wilbur and Orville flew the toy incessantly until it broke. They fabricated replicas, experimenting with different sizes and materials, but the larger sizes did not fly as well as the smaller ones, presenting the brothers with the weight-to-power ratio which they would not solve until years later when they successfully made the first powered, controlled and sustained heavier-than-air airplane flight at Kill Devil Hills, NC in 1903.



The vision two boys had in their youth took twenty-five years to become reality. Trial and error, mistakes, frustrations, ridicule, discouragement, even despondency could not dissuade them from their belief that mankind would one day fly manned craft through the skies.

Your God-given vision may be slow in materializing but keep working on it. Learn from your mistakes. Deflect the critics. Keep your eyes on Jesus – "the author and finisher of our faith."



Connecting with Unchurched Guests and Families During Special Services



In the next two months, most churches will host special holiday worship experiences. These services include Thanksgiving, Christmas musicals and cantatas, Children's programs, Christmas Eve services, Christmas Day services and New Year's Eve services.

People who do not attend church will attend these special services, which creates an opportunity to reach them with Christ's message. Here are several things to consider in relating to these attenders.

Correct Perspective: Remember, they are guests, not visitors and there is a subtle, but distinct difference. Visitors are people who stop by for a visit, possibly unexpected and/or uninvited, whereas guests are invited and expected. You plan for their arrival and their time with you. Guests receive your full hospitality.



Parking lots: Consider guest parking spots with temporary or permanent signage near main entrances and/or preschool and children's areas. Additionally, place greeters in the lot to welcome, answer questions and direct guests into the right doors.

At the doors: Provide warm, welcoming greeters at the doors who can help people get to where they need to be and answer any questions guests may have – think the greeters at WalMart. Consider having students at the doors, because teenagers may not want to leave home and go to a strange place. Students at the doors communicate to first- time teenagers that this is a teen-friendly place.

Internet access: Many people tweet and post things that impress or resonate with them. Provide guests with internet access codes; so, they can tweet and post during special services. These tweets and posts could be free PR for your church.



Picture/Selfie spots: People love to take pictures. Providing spots where people can take holiday pictures of family, friends or themselves creates a user-friendly experience. A personal photographer can also be available to take pictures that can be texted or emailed later. Providing this service creates a friendly atmosphere and provides you with future contact information.



Preschool/Children's Areas: If guests utilize the preschool and/or children's areas, please provide trained volunteers to personally greet and care for their needs.

Those who are not familiar with your security system will need to know how it works; so, they feel comfortable leaving their precious ones in your care. Additionally, rooms and open areas need to look welcoming, safe and clean. Provide families with information on ongoing and upcoming age-group ministries to encourage future ministry participation. When possible, connect current families with new families with similar interests to help build relational bonds.

All ages: Train adults of all ages to identify and connect with unfamiliar people. After introductions, simple questions can help break the ice.

How long have you been attending here?
How long have you been living in the area?
What do you do for a living?
What are your favorite things to do/hobbies?
Who is your team?
Where are you from?
What are your holiday traditions?
How can I help you?



Treating people like expected guests creates a warm, welcoming experience. Hopefully, they will return after the holidays and become a part of your church family.

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas,
Dr. Kim Jessie





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Network of Churches

BABY BOUTIQUE

Baby Boutique is truly feeling blessed! We have been blessed with many wonderful donations to help fill many of our current needs. God is good, indeed! If you know of someone in your church or neighborhood who could benefit from Baby Boutique, please have them go online to www.thebridgenet.org and fill out the Baby Boutique application located under the Resource tab or call the office at (757)938-9793 for help. Once we receive the application, we will set up an appointment for the visit. We offer a "One Time Only" visit to help with children from newborn thru about age 2. Our clothing goes up to size 2.

Thank you again to all who have donated! We rely on donations to keep us going! We are currently in need of new or gently used infant tubs, bouncy seats, crib sheets, blankets and size one disposable diapers. We do not accept cribs or car seats and a few other items. If you have questions about donations or donation drop off, please feel free to call me directly. Thank you for your continued support!

Bonnie Cuthriell, Director
(757)681-7056



Office Phone: 757-938-9793

Staff Connections

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