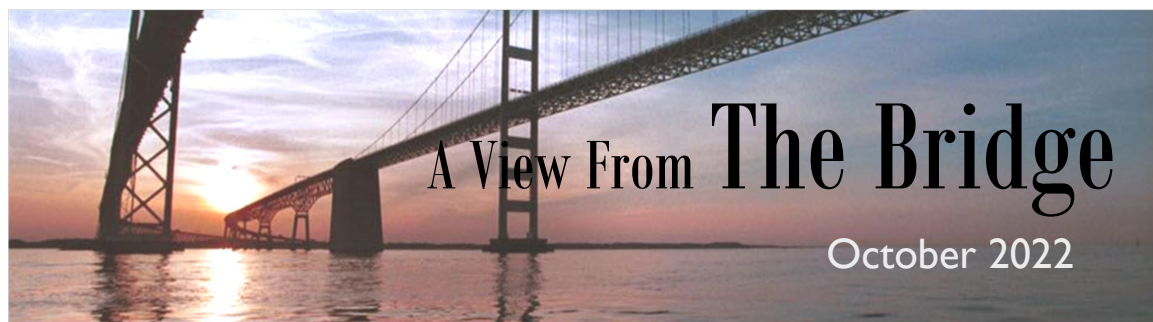




**October is  
Pastor  
Appreciation  
Month!!  
  
Show your  
pastor how  
much he is  
appreciated  
through special  
acts of kindness.**



### **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.

Constitution Q&A: 5:00pm    Dinner: 6pm (\$7)    Meeting: 7pm

**Please RSVP by Thursday, October 20th** so a packet, name badge, and meal (with paid reservation) may be prepared for you. You may register by visiting our website ([www.thebridgenet.org](http://www.thebridgenet.org)), under Resources click on "2022 Fall Meeting"; return the completed form that was mailed to your church; or email [admin@thebridgenet.org](mailto:admin@thebridgenet.org). You may mail a check to the office or pay online by visiting the "2022 Fall Meeting" page at [www.thebridgenet.org](http://www.thebridgenet.org). If you have any questions, please call the office, 757-938-9793 or email [admin@thebridgenet.org](mailto:admin@thebridgenet.org).

### **How Do I "Restart" My Ministry in This Church?**

#### **PUSH TO RESTART (2) The Day of Small Things**

**If you feel like walking away from pastoral ministry, you are not alone.** [Barna Research](#) reported in March that 42% of pastors have considered quitting full-time ministry (up 13% from January 2021). These are tough times to be a leader in any organization, but especially in an organization like the church that is completely dependent upon the voluntary attendance of its members.



Barna points out three main drivers of the desire to resign: immense stress, loneliness and isolation and political divisions in the nation. Anecdotally, I would add the lethargy toward the church in the lives of post-pandemic Christians and the feral anger and dissatisfaction many are displaying coming out of the two-year lockdown.

(Continued on page 2)

## October Staff and Spouse Birthdays

3	Alex Zabel	Horizon
5	"Kit" Laxton	Exmore
7	Ruth Castleberry	Great Bridge
8	Yvonne Price	Holy Trinity
9	Connie Inman	Black Creek
10	Danny Moore	Fairview Heights
15	Jay Albritton	LifePoint
16	Chris Cunningham	GO
17	Grayson Leach	Spurgeon
23	Jerry Tucker	Catalyst
24	Robin Houston	Point Harbor
25	Will Langford	Great Bridge
25	Pedro Sanchez	Mappsville
25	Aubrey Houston	Point Harbor
26	Bruce Purnell	First Camelot
28	Martin Jones	First View



## BABY BOUTIQUE

Baby Boutique is up and running and eager to share what we have! If you know of someone in your church or community that would benefit from our boutique, please have them go

online to [www.thebridgenet.org](http://www.thebridgenet.org); the Baby Boutique Application is under Resources on the drop down menu. Once submitted, I will contact them about an appointment. We offer a one time visit to get what they need. We have clothes, diapers and other various items for newborns thru age 2. Since we work from donations, our inventory varies.

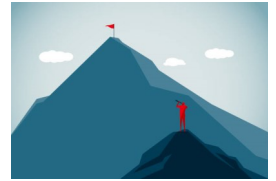
Speaking of donations, we appreciate and accept anything we can! We always need disposable diapers sizes 1-6 and currently need shampoos, lotions, diaper creams, bath towels, washcloths, and infant tubs. We do not accept cribs or car seats. If anyone has donations, please call me directly to arrange a drop off time or if you have questions! Thank you for all that you do to keep Baby Boutique going!

Bonnie Cuthriell, Director  
(757) 681-7056



## PUSH TO RESTART (2)

(Continued from page 1)



**Finding the way forward seems more difficult, if not improbable, for many pastors.**

I have certainly felt these emotions as a pastor in the past few months and empathize with you if you think you could be happier and more fulfilled doing something other than ministry. But the Lord has reminded me each time I feel this way that I am a "bought" man (1 Corinthians 6:20). He is my Lord and I am His servant. The last person I would want to be is Jonah, thinking a Mediterranean cruise to another vocation just might be a valid option!

**So, if He wants you and me to stay where we are and find His way forward, what might that look like?**

In my first post in this series, I encouraged you to stop looking at your situation through your eyes and try to see the church through the eyes of the next pastor. He would come in with high optimism and start from there. When we are discouraged, we see the same people he would see, but with low pessimism and find it difficult to start anywhere.

Sit down with the Lord and write a list of what the next pastor might do if he did not know everything about the church you know. Ignore your cynicism and think with hope and faith again. You have to "push" yourself past your current mindset and "restart" your thinking with Bible-based confidence.



Once you have a list of five ideas or more, organize them by what can be done now and what can be done later. **Pick one and start planning to make it happen!**

One pastor, after reading my first post, felt like I might have dissuaded some pastors by citing our numbers at Fellowship. After all, when you have those kind of numbers, more options are available to you than if you have only a small number of people. The numbers help, but **God is God whether you have a handful or a sanctuary full of people!**

Pastor, if you have a perpetually small church, **stop reading church growth books**; you will only frustrate yourself. **Focus on what you have rather than what you do not have!** Ask God to show you how you can obey Him in your setting and, when He tells you, do it! That's all He expects of you.



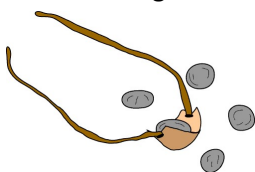
We need to be careful not to judge a church or its pastor because it remains "small." Some statistics show **Americans are migrating** to smaller congregations and away from larger ones, because

they are looking for closeness and being known. Blackwater (my current pastorate) has seen this occurring more since the lockdown. You might be seeing it, too. There is, according to Scripture, a **“day of small things.”** (Zechariah 4:10)

A **wooden staff** is not a large item; it is small. But, when placed in the hands of a man who knew God, it became indispensable to Moses. God used it to start plagues, split seas and rip open rocks. Yet, it remained small!



The **ark of the covenant** was not large. It never grew any larger than the dimensions God gave Moses, yet Jehovah's power and presence resided in it, on it, above it and around it! God used it to defeat armies, part the Jordan and guide Israel through the desert.



**David's sling** would fit in your pocket.

When given the choice between the larger, unfamiliar armor of Saul or the smaller, familiar feel of the slingshot, David picked the latter. The history of

Israel changed that day, because God used something small.

I am writing this section to you who pastor “small” congregations; **ignore the “King Sauls” who think you must look like them to be used of God;** that is simply not true. God chooses the weak things, the small things, to display His power and glory *if we are fully surrendered to being obedient to what He tells us to do.*

If you just cannot see what the next pastor would do, segregate some time in your life to get alone with the God Who called you to ministry. Remind Him that *He called you;* ask Him for directions and then be quiet and listen to what He has to say to you. Learn to have “ears that hear.” **You will find the courage and fire and ideas you need there, in His intimate presence.**

Pastor, we need you. We need your voice preaching the Gospel of Christ to this crazy generation. Don't quit!



**Dr. Donald Lynn Hardaway**  
Network Missionary

#### **SBCV Annual Meeting:**

November 13-15, First Baptist Church  
in Roanoke

#### **BGAV Annual Meeting:**

November 14-16, First Baptist Church  
in Newport News

## **FALL FESTIVAL/HALLOWEEN OUTREACH IDEAS**

### **Hallo-weenie Roast and Trunk or Treat**

Thanks to Vanessa Hake of Shadowlawn for providing this information.



Last year, Shadowlawn Church hosted a Hallo-weenie Roast on Halloween night. We gave out unlimited hot dogs and chili with all the fixings, hot cocoa, hot cider, juice boxes and water. For children, we also had glow in-the-dark toys and bookmarks, all with the name of Jesus.

There were a couple of games set up, including basketball shooting, with candy prizes. Additionally, several church members decorated their car trunks and passed out candy on the lawn.

Volunteers came together to donate food, set up, work the grill, pass out food, keep tables clean, and clean up afterward. Two ladies teamed up to have tracts available and answer questions anyone may have. Each volunteer's individual passion and vision brought unique variety to the event.

The church is situated at an intersection between two neighborhoods and across from a convenience store, making it an optimum location for foot traffic. We had the grill and food tables right off the sidewalk and clearly visible from the street. There were 2/3 8-foot tables with chairs set up where families or individuals could sit and eat. Effective, but not blinding, outdoor lighting was essential for serving food outside after dark.

### **Community Fall Festival**

Thanks to Hannah Weber of CrossRoads for sharing this information.

For the fall festival, we rent a dunk tank and a cotton candy machine. We have a popcorn machine we use, along with grilling hotdogs, and we have chips for food.



We use 2 bounce houses that we own. We also have someone playing music as a DJ. We have around 20 festival games that we have out front. Kids can either get a piece of candy or a ticket. The ticket can go towards a throw at the dunk tank.

We also have pumpkin painting and face painting. There is also a fun photo booth where families can take pictures.

We have fun fall decorations and a few blow ups, too. Kids come in their costumes. This year, we are partnering with the church next door, and they are renting animals; so, we will have those as well! It's a ton of fun, and the kids love it!



1407 Stephanie Way  
Suite F  
Chesapeake, VA 23320

### *Church News*

**Christ Chosen:** is hosting "Revival on the Mount", Sunday, October 30 from Noon to 2pm at the Mt. Trashmore stage located at 310 Edwin Dr., Virginia Beach. This will be a collective worship service to pray for Revival in Hampton Roads and around the world. All churches are asked to participate. For more information call Pastor Rodney Burns, 757-828-7729.

**Norview:** is looking to hire an interim pastor before the end of the year. Please submit inquiries/resumes to Bill Twine, Personnel Committee Chair, 1127 Norview Ave., Norfolk 23513 or email [wbtwine@msn.com](mailto:wbtwine@msn.com).

### **SHRMP REPORT**

The team had 125 people representing 14 churches. A special blessing were team members from the Dominican Republic who speak Spanish which enabled us to ministered effectively in a predominantly Spanish speaking community. We conducted 6 Vacation Bible Schools with a total enrollment of 390. We were excited to see 64 trust Christ as Savior. Six local churches will be conducting follow-up in specific communities where we served. We gave out Bibles to as many as would take them. Through a partnership with the Gideons we were also able to give out Spanish Bibles. We also gave out "Miracle Man Books" a children's story book on the miracles of Jesus.

*David Slayton, Director of SHRMP*

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