

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

PUSH TO RESTART (3) Revamp Your Preaching

Sometimes, we need a fresh start. When our lawn began losing its luster and bare spots started showing, weeds were multiplying and the grass did not look healthy in places, I picked up some materials on how to restart a lawn. It took some work and steady attention, and it never looked perfect, but after a few months its health returned and its “curb appeal” improved.



Churches become ‘stale’ and show signs of ill health; in fact, I think it is in their nature to spiral toward ‘losing their luster’ because they are made up of fallen human beings. The pandemic certainly accelerated the downward spiral by legitimizing laziness and indifference toward the church.

(Continued on page 2)

Give thanks
to the Lord,
for He is
good; His
faithful love
endures
forever.

Psalm 107:1



GIVING THANKS FOR OUR LEADERS AND VOLUNTEERS

In Philippians 1:3, Paul expresses his appreciation to those serving the Lord in Philippi: “I thank my God in all my remembrance of you.” He recognized the importance of the leaders and volunteers in Philippi and what they meant to the Kingdom. Like Paul, we need to thank the people who are meaningful to us and our ministries. For us, November is a great time to recognize those who are important to us and have helped us along the way. A simple way to thank others in a way that is meaningful to them is through their love languages.

Gary Chapman’s *The Five Love Languages* (<http://www.5lovelanguages.com/profile/>) outlines five ways people express and feel loved and appreciated: Acts of Service, Physical Touch, Quality Time, Receiving Gifts and Words of Encouragement. Every individual recognizes the love and appreciation from others in one of these five areas. We need to remember that not everyone speaks our love language; so, we need to be fluent in all five languages to make sure we speak to others in ways they can understand our love and appreciation.



(Continued on page 3)

NOVEMBER

STAFF AND SPOUSE

BIRTHDAYS

4	Terri Combs	Christ First, Norfolk
4	Dahlia Cunningham	Go
4	Lisa Hogan	Journey
8	Andrew Juliot	Eastville
8	Mark Layne	Parksley
10	Brenda Parks	First, New Church
10	Lauren Tremper	CrossRoads
10	Jay McCoy	Discovery
11	Jeff Conrow	Lower Northampton
12	Kevin Ritter	Centerville
12	Liz Lane	Adventure
17	Rodney Burns	Christ Chosen
20	Jonathan Carpenter	Exmore
21	Todd Woolston	Real Life
22	Andre Chambers	One Generation
23	Karen McGoldrick	Thalia Lynn
25	Barbara Bryan	Zion
28	Richard Castleberry	Great Bridge
29	Charlie Stover	Lighthouse
29	Cecelia Hall	Manna
30	Randy Chivers	New Heights

BABY BOUTIQUE

Fall is in the air! With the changing of seasons I'm sure mothers are in need of warmer clothes for their little ones. Baby Boutique is ready and able to help out! If you know of anyone in your church or community that could use our help, have them go to www.thebridge.net.org and fill out a Baby Boutique application. Once I receive the application, I will be in touch to set up an appointment. We offer a one time visit to help with the needs of children newborn thru approximately age 2. Our available items vary depending on our donations. We have clothing up to size 2, disposable diapers, wipes, bibs, sheets, towels, and various larger items at times. Since we do depend on donations, if anyone would like to donate to Baby Boutique we currently are in need of sheets (crib and pack and play), tubs and towels, pack and play, high chairs and strollers, and of course disposable diapers size 1-6. Feel free to call me for more info or for drop off arrangements. We appreciate each and every donation!

Bonnie Cuthriell, Director
(757) 681-7056



PUSH TO RESTART (3)

(Continued from page 1)

So how does a pastor restart a church he has pastored for years?

In the first entry of this series, we saw that **looking at the church from a different set of eyes will help**. How would the next pastor see the church if he arrived tomorrow? What would he do to get things going? Write down a list and pick one thing and get started.



Another simple step is to **revamp your preaching**. We get comfortable in our sermon preparation routines, allow our stories to grow outdated, write sermons out of habit – and, consequently, can lose our fire and enthusiasm out of dullness.

My preaching style at Fellowship in the early years followed the pattern of the great Southern Baptist preachers at the time. I learned how to alliterate my points, illustrate the truths, and expound the Scriptures using the reference books spread across my large desk. A pen and a yellow writing pad were the tools of the trade in those days (pre-computer).

When the church hit a plateau, and I was at a loss as to how to move it out of the dry spell we were in, one of the decisions I made was to **redesign my preaching**. I began listening to the sermons of other popular preachers, paying attention to how they presented and delivered their sermons. I found new

ways to say what the Scriptures taught. Truthfully, **I became more interested** in what I was going to preach and how I would preach it.

The new enthusiasm showed in the congregation and new people started coming back for more sermons.

It may be, pastor, that your preaching style has attracted all it is going to attract. By shifting your preaching up a notch or two, your own excitement might draw visitors back to your services and (who knows?) some of the straying members may decide to wander back in.



(continued on page 3)

Once I reached the age of fifty, I stopped listening to the older preachers and spent a few years listening to the young men who were attracting people with their sermons. Find a couple of younger men to listen to and analyze their preaching style; use what fits with your personality and conviction. ***We should never stop improving the one thing people expect us to be good at!***

Here are some ideas I use when listening to a good preacher:

1. How does he get the crowd's attention as he starts his message?
2. How does he introduce the subject of the message?
3. How does he use humor to keep the audience engaged?
4. How does he illustrate his points?
5. How does he make his point(s) memorable and actionable?
6. Does he make himself or God the hero of the story?
7. How does he handle Scriptural truth? Is he careful to stay with the text? Does he make Scripture authoritative and how does he do that?

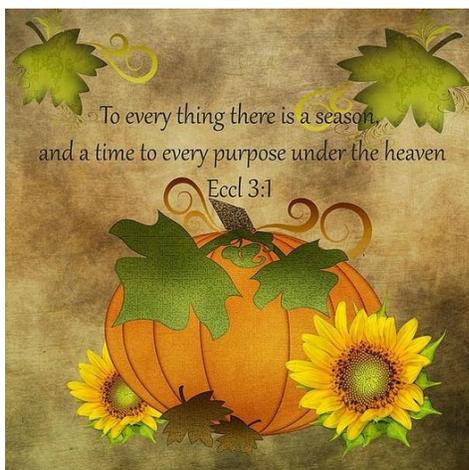
You can write your own ideas; the point is, to revamp your preaching you will need to **PUSH YOURSELF** to listen to today's effective preachers. Be careful not to copy them but learn from their example. If you are going to use one of their quotes, be sure to give them credit for it.

Here's a good quote I heard yesterday from Eric Thomas (First Baptist Church Norfolk):

"It's better to be a Daniel in a den of lions than to be a lion in a den of Daniels."

His topic was prayer.

Dr. Donald Lynn Hardaway
Network Missionary



GIVING THANKS FOR OUR LEADERS AND VOLUNTEERS

When you say, "thank you," you can also express love and appreciation through specific love language actions. Some helpful ideas for each of the love languages are below:

Acts of Service: Bring someone a cup of coffee or a drink, prepare a snack or a meal, take care of an expressed need



Physical Touch: Handshake, high five, fist bump, hugs (when/where appropriate)

Quality Time: Meet for coffee, breakfast, or lunch; take a walk together; work on a project together; hang out

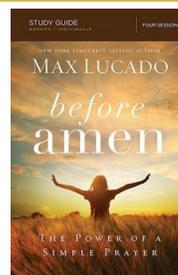
Receiving Gifts: gift cards, flowers, thank you notes, candy bars or snacks, something you know the other person would appreciate

Words of Encouragement: tell them you love/appreciate them, tell them something they did that was helpful, tell them how great they are and mention something specific, send them a text, card, message or email telling them something you appreciate about them.



Once we realize how others receive love and appreciation, we can truly thank them.

Thank you for how you share God's love with others,
Kim Jessie



NEW RESOURCE

"BEFORE AMEN, THE POWER OF A SIMPLE PRAYER"
BY MAX LUCADO

In this four-session video-based study, Max Lucado reveals his struggles with prayer and how he discovered that it is not a privilege for the pious or the art of a chosen few but a simple tool everyone has been given to have a conversation with God. He shows you how to let go of uncertainties about prayer, trust that God hears you, and embrace a prayer life that brings peace and rest.

Call 757-938-9793, or come by the office to reserve this study for you or your group.

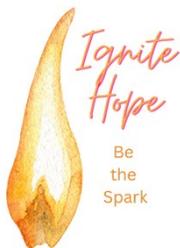


1407 Stephanie Way
Suite F
Chesapeake, VA 23320

Church News

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.

OV: Pastor Aaron Dininny celebrated his 10th anniversary at OV. Congratulations!



The **Ignite Hope Women's Conference** is accepting sponsorships from local businesses who desire to connect with Christian women during the March 2023 conference. Sponsorship space is limited.

Platinum Sponsor: \$500 – full page ad

Gold Sponsor: \$250 – 1/2-page ad

Silver Sponsor: \$100 – 1/4-page ad

Bronze Sponsor: \$50 – 1/8-page ad

Friend of the Conference: Donation to the goodie bags and/or door prize – Friends of the Conference List.

For more information or to become a sponsor, please email admin@thebridgenet.org or call 757-938-9793.

Office Phone: 757-938-9793

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

Staff Connections

Donald Lynn Hardaway
Kim Jessie
Phyllis Wroton
Nichole Hensley
Betty Roberts

Website: www.thebridgenet.org

hardaway@thebridgenet.org
kjessie@thebridgenet.org
admin@thebridgenet.org
officesec@thebridgenet.org
broberts@thebridgenet.org