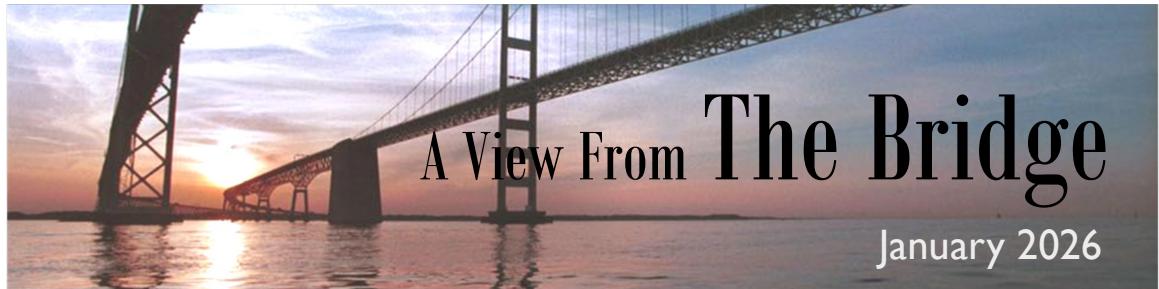


THE BRIDGE
Network of Churches

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2026



ReFueled
BY JOY



\$25 EARLY BIRD AND
GROUP RATES TILL
JANUARY 28TH



SCAN ME

www.thebridgenet.org/2026-ignite-hope

Mary Margaret
WEST

TEACHER-SPEAKER-WRITER
WOMEN & TEEN GIRLS



THE BRIDGE
Network of Churches

FEBRUARY 28, 2026

THALIA LYNN BAPTIST CHURCH
4392 VIRGINIA BEACH BLVD.
VIRGINIA BEACH, 23462

CONFERENCE 9-12PM
DOORS OPEN AT 8AM
AFTERGLOW 12:30

*SEPERATE REGISTRATION FOR AGTERGLOW

JANUARY

Staff and Spouse Birthdays

4	Tom Tuttle	Point Harbor
15	Bon Wong	Family Bible
19	Greg Brinson	London Bridge
19	Valerie Lee	Collinswood-Agape
22	Bill Heffelfinger	Acts 2
26	Tinney Parrish	Central
28	Judy Liu	First Chinese
29	Joe Price	Holy Trinity
29	Jen Zabel	Horizon
31	Marisa Sanchez	Cape Charles



Baby Boutique

A new year is beginning, and Baby Boutique is excited about helping little ones start the new year off right. Thanks to so many generous people making donations over the last few months, we are well stocked with clothing and other essential items for newborns thru about age 2. So now we need to start sharing! If you know of anyone in your church or community who could benefit from what we have to offer, please have them go to www.thebridgenet.org and fill out a Baby Boutique application found under our Resource tab. This will be forwarded to me, and I will contact you for an appointment. We give the parent (or caregiver) a "One Time Only" shopping spree for free! Since we run on donations, our inventory varies.

As always, we continue to accept donations. If you have a donation, please contact me directly to ask questions about what we do and do not accept and make drop off arrangements. We Do Not accept cribs, car seats and a few other items. Thank you for your continued support!

Bonnie Cuthriell, Director
(757)681-7056



How God Sees Your Ministry

Dr. Lynn Hardaway

Ruth Chou Simons, in her book, *"The Way of the Wildflower,"* points out that some translations of Matthew 6:28 use the word "wildflowers" in the place of "lilies" in Jesus' teaching about freedom from worry.



"Consider how they grow," Jesus said.

The Lord directs our attention away from the hustle and bustle of life and ministry and toward the less significant and often overlooked flowering plants that flourish in the wild places, along the less-traveled paths.

Wildflowers grow where they are planted, which might be in a place where few human eyes will ever see them. They have no desire to impress, and they do not advertise how important their beauty is to the world.



"Wildflowers don't care where they grow." (Dolly Parton) They need no fertilizing or fuss; just a little water, space and sunshine and you will find them bursting with extravagant colors, if you take the time to consider them.

Jesus pointed out these plants, designed uniquely by the hand of the Creator, are free from fear of the future and are completely dependent upon the provision of their Maker, who makes sure they are dressed like royalty every morning.



They do not have to work or toil or labor to be beautiful; God has put it in their design to blossom radiantly for His glory! As Chou points out, **"they exist in the place God put them, crowned with the glory He gave them."**

We can sometimes feel like a wildflower; not crazy out of control wild but planted in a place that will never be written up in a church growth magazine. It is unlikely our church will be one of the "100 Fastest Growing Churches in America" and no writer will show up at our door to interview us on principles of ministry success.



In the context of Jesus' teaching, we can worry about our seeming insignificance, or we can choose to radiate God's glory where we are by being the person He has designed us to be.

Find your hope in God's purposeful and precise planting of you and stop wishing you were a fancy rose bush being admired by the masses.



(continued from page 2)

"If God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you."

"Beautiful;" that's the word Jesus used to evaluate His thoughts about wildflowers, and that's what He thinks of you and your ministry.



Executive Committee Meeting Thursday, January 22; 10am

If you are a Pastor or a Lay Representative of a Network church, this meeting is for you. This meeting reviews the business that will be presented at the Annual Spring meeting.

You may attend either in person (at the office) or via Zoom. Seating at the office is limited, so pre-registering is a must. To register, please email admin@thebridgenet.org or call 757-938-9793.

Call the office, 757-938-9793 or email admin@thebridgenet.org to RSVP

The two new Block Party Trailers have a new look and are ready to be checked out!



5 Questions for a Productive Start to the New Year

By Kim Jessie

Sometimes, we begin the year with high hopes of completing projects. We may even plan on doing some wonderful things for God. Below are five simple questions that can assist you in crafting your success in 2026.

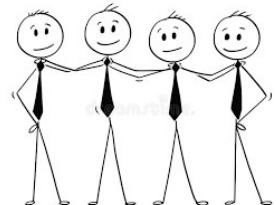
What? Make a list of what you want to do. Be specific. Don't use flowery language or big words. Just write down the key parts.



When? Set deadlines for each item. These deadlines would be either start dates for something that would be ongoing or completion dates for things that are one-time successes. Try to organize projects over a timeframe; so, you do not need to rush on anything. Try not to stress yourself or your calendar.



How? Identify what skills, talents, and abilities you already have to accomplish your goals. Additionally, figure out resources, supplies, and tools you already have or that you will need to acquire to accomplish your goals. Making this list early will help you accomplish your goals.



Who? Develop a list of people who can work with you to help you achieve your goals. A team is almost always better than a single person when it comes to working on a goal. People can hold each other accountable and help carry the load. Look for people who are strong where you are not and people who encourage and not discourage you.

Why? This is probably the most important question. Determine the reason for what you want to accomplish. If it is important enough to you, the why will drive your success. Ask if God will be honored by your accomplishments. When you decide to accomplish something that will honor God, that goal becomes more important to you and to others.

ASK GOD.



1407 Stephanie Way
Suite F
Chesapeake, VA 23320

Texas Flood Update

Thanks to the Network Churches generosity, \$31,364.54, has been raised for the Hill County Baptist Association in Kerrville, Texas.

Dr. Lynn Hardaway, delivered the check to Dr. Robert Wheat, Director of Hill Country Baptist Association, Kerrville, Texas.



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Network Missionary
Leadership & Ministry Strategist
Financial Secretary
Office Secretary-

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