

A View From The Bridge

April 2026

Serving Jesus today with
Grace, GRIT, and for His Glory



ANNUAL SPRING MEETING

THURSDAY, APRIL 23RD

OV CHURCH

9504 Selby Place, Norfolk

**AFTERNOON SESSION: 4:30PM; LEADING BY FOLLOWING WITH
GRACE AND GRIT**

TACO DINNER AT 6PM, WITH PAID RESERVATION; COST: \$8

MEETING: 7PM

Pastors/Messengers/Guests/Visitors, RSVP by Wednesday, April 15th so a packet, name badge, and meal (with paid reservation) may be prepared for you.

There are four ways to register:

1. Visit our website (www.thebridgenet.org), under Resources click on "2026 Annual Spring Meeting". You may register and pay for your meal on that page.
2. Return the completed form that was mailed to your church.
3. Email admin@thebridgenet.org.
4. Call the office, 757-938-9793



Guest Speaker

Pastor Jake Scott, Coastal Community Church

2026

Spring Mission Project Serving Jesus Today

Would it surprise you to learn that some of the people whose homes were affected by Hurricane Helene are still living in tents? They are waiting for their homes to be repaired so they can move back into them.

We have decided, for our Spring Offering, to raise funds to send a Disaster Relief team (Coastal Recovery, LLC) to assist them in the recovery and necessary repairs of their homes.

Todd Woolston and his team(s) are ready to go back to Beacon Village in Swannanoa, NC; they just need the funding to cover the materials costs. They will go down one or two weeks at a time to help get these families back in their homes.

Let's rise up together and give sacrificially to see this project happen. These people need our help!



www.thebridgenet.org/give

Staff and Spouse Birthdays

1 Rex Gilley	Carrow
3 Sarah Hobbs	New Song
3 Alice Denny	Drummontown
5 Lynn Hardaway	BNoC
6 Maureen Hardaway	Blackwater
9 Morgan Hart	Greenbrier
9 Nichole Hensley	BNoC
11 Amanda French	Zion
13 Christine Fail	Broadway
14 Thomas Old	St. Johns
14 Robin Williams	Crosslife
16 Linda Ligon	Burrows
23 John Houston	Point Harbor
25 Phyllis Wroton	BNoC
29 Terrance Livingston	Shadowlawn
29 Jim Foreman	Sedley



The Cellist of Sarajevo

Dr. Lynn Hardaway



A long line of starving people stretched into the street while they waited for bread to be distributed from one of the only bakeries still open in Sarajevo. The sound of nearby explosions and gunfire kept them alert, but their hunger kept them in the line. At exactly 4 pm, May 27, 1992, a mortar shell fell directly into the middle of the line, killing 22 people and sending flesh, blood, bone and rubble indiscriminately over the area.

When Vedran Smailovic heard the explosion and saw the carnage, he made a decision; the next day, and for the next 22 days at 4 pm, he dressed in his full, formal concert attire, carried his cello to the scene and sat in a plastic chair next to the crater made by the mortar shell, and played music: "public music. Daring music. Music played on a battlefield... mournful... haunting music."



He played in memory of those who had died that day.

He played for the people who were terrified as bombs dropped and bullets flew, with buildings and walls exploding around him. He made his incredibly courageous stand for the sake of human dignity. Amazingly, he was never harmed.



A few years later, at a gathering of professional cellists in Manchester, England, Yo Yo Ma played a tearful and wrenching rendition of "The Cellist of Sarajevo" to an audience that was stunned to silence at its conclusion. The world-renowned cellist gestured to someone in the crowd and Vedran Smailovic stepped on to the stage to the sound of roaring applause and tearful appreciation.

We, too, are surrounded by the sights and sounds of a world at war with God. The empty hearts and broken lives and confused darkness can seem overwhelming. We are called to live courageously among the carnage, speaking gospel truth with love and compassion for those who are hungering for the Bread of Life; Jesus. Be like the bold, fearless cellist of Sarajevo – be a voice for human dignity (which is found in a right relationship with the Creator).



PASTORS' WIVES' RETREAT

JOY
through it
ALL



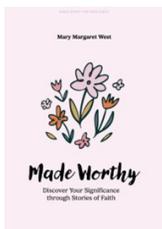
May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

ROMANS 15:13 (ESV)

New Library Resource

Our library has recently been gifted numerous bible studies. These studies will make a meaningful difference in the resources we're able to offer to our Network churches.

We have a wide selection of new and new to us, studies and materials, available for checkout. Whether you're looking to deepen your personal study, enrich a small group, or explore a new topic, there's something here for everyone. We invite everyone to stop by, browse the new additions, and enjoy these valuable resources. If you are interested in checking out our Library, call the office, or stop by. Here are several of the new resources we have available.

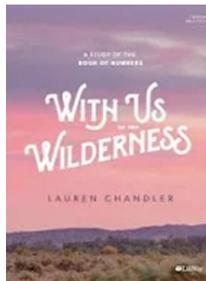


You Are Worthy.

To truly know our worth, we must first understand that Jesus is the only One who can make us worthy. Nothing we can do on our own will ever measure up. We don't have to earn Jesus's love to know that He loves us. In fact, because He is the One who has made

us worthy, we can live boldly as an example of what true worth looks like. We can quit trying to check every box and rest in the One who made us and sees us.

The Book of Numbers continues the historical narrative in Exodus, the story of God's people newly freed from Egypt's shackles and wandering toward the promised land. Numbers is a story of wilderness wandering, but it's also a story of God's presence among His beloved.



Discover how even when they rebelled—and this book tells of many rebellions—God's love and promises remained. It's in that love and those promises the children of Israel found their identity and where we must find ours today.



And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. — Colossians 2:13-14

Paul's letter to the church at Colossae encourages believers to live out the reality of the doctrine of Christ—He is God, He is supreme, and He is sufficient. We have been buried with Him and raised to life with Him as new creations, knit together in love.

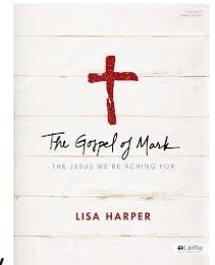
In 8 sessions, explore themes of fundamental Christian doctrine through verse-by-verse study of Colossians. Learn who Christ is, who you are in Him, and how to grow and mature in your faith.



Many women know Psalm 23 by heart but haven't experienced its power in their lives. This beloved psalm can breathe new life into women who are weary and unsure of their next steps. It's more than a psalm that comforts in death; it gives confidence in life.

- Explore the depths of God's compassionate care.
- Trade the myth of self-reliance for the truth of God's providence.
- Learn to view your vulnerability as a strength essential to relying on God.
- Banish fear as you trust the Shepherd's goodness in every season of life.

The Gospel of Mark: The Jesus We're Aching For; explores the fast-paced narrative of Mark to reveal Jesus's deep compassion and spiritual authority. The study follows Jesus from His early ministry to the cross, emphasizing that He is both the powerful Son of God and an incredibly personal Savior who understands human heartbreak.



2026/2027 SCHOLARSHIP

The 2026/2027 educational scholarship application is available on our website under the Resource tab:

<https://www.thebridgenet.org/scholarship>.

Student must be a member of a Network church. **The deadline is April 7th at 3pm.**

PASTORS' WIVES GATHERING

Western District: Wednesday, May 13, 11:30am, Serve, Franklin

Southside: Wednesday, May 20, 11:30am, Aloha Hola, Greenbrier

Church News

Cornerstone Baptist Church, 1500 Sewells Point Rd., Norfolk, has a food distribution, every 3rd Saturday of the month, 10am—Noon, while supplies last.

The next distribution is Saturday, April 18th



1407 Stephanie Way
Suite F
Chesapeake, VA 23320

Baby Boutique

Babies are what we're all about and we are looking forward to helping moms with their spring and summer baby needs!! We're equipped to help babies from newborn through age 2 with clothing and other essential needs depending on our donations. We offer a one-time shopping spree to help parents however we can. If you know of someone who could benefit from what we have to offer, please have them go to www.thebridgenet.org, click Resources and fill out an application for Baby Boutique. Someone will get in touch with them to set up an appointment. We are generally available the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month 10am-2pm, but other times can often be arranged if necessary.

We rely on donated items to keep us up and running and gladly accept clothing and other items suitable for newborns thru approximately age 2. Most donations are gladly accepted except for car seats, cribs, and baby powder and a few other items. If you have questions about donations, please contact me! Thank you to all who have donated recently because you helped to make Baby Boutique a success!

Also, if you are interested in helping at the Baby Boutique on an "as needed" basis, please contact me! I sometimes need a little extra help! Thanks!

Bonnie Cuthriell, Director
(757) 681-7056



Office Phone: 757-938-9793

Network Missionary
Leadership & Ministry Strategist
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Staff Connections

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