



# A View From The Bridge

September 2024

## FALL LEADERSHIP TRAINING

### EXMORE BAPTIST CHURCH

11624 OCCOHANNOCK ROAD, EXMORE

Thursday, September 26

Dinner: 5:30pm—Cost \$8 (chicken/roast beef with fixings)

### GREAT BRIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH

640 S. Battlefield Blvd, Chesapeake

Thursday, October 3

Dinner: 5:30pm —\$8 (fried chicken);  
Training begins at 6pm



### Classes offered at both locations:

- ◇ How to Build a Multi-Generational Church/Reaching the Various Generations (panel discussion)
- ◇ Building a Preschool & Children’s Ministry in a Small Congregation
- ◇ Recruiting, Training, and Keeping Volunteers
- ◇ Establishing Healthy Boundaries in Life and Ministry
- ◇ Establishing a Leadership Development System
- ◇ Understanding and Serving Through Your Spiritual Gifts
- ◇ Developing an Effective Prayer Ministry
- ◇ How to Mentor Others
- ◇ Effective Communication and Listening Skills

**3 ways to register, [www.thebridgenet.org](http://www.thebridgenet.org), call 757-938-9793 or email [admin@thebridgenet.org](mailto:admin@thebridgenet.org)**

## 2024 ANNUAL FALL MEETING

“UNWAVERING LOVE”

HEBREWS 13:1

**Thursday, October 24th at Great Neck Baptist Church**

1020 General Jackson, Virginia Beach, VA

Dinner will begin at 6pm.

**Meeting will begin at 7pm.**

**Please register by Friday, October 18th, so a packet, name badge, and meal (with paid reservation) may be prepared for you.**

There are three ways to register: 1. **Visit** our website ([www.thebridgenet.org](http://www.thebridgenet.org)), under Resources click on “2024 Fall Annual Gathering”. 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](mailto:admin@thebridgenet.org). You may mail a check to the office or pay online by visiting the “2024 Fall Annual Gathering” page at [www.thebridgenet.org](http://www.thebridgenet.org) (under Resources). If you have any questions, please call the office, 757-938-9793 or email [admin@thebridgenet.org](mailto:admin@thebridgenet.org).

# Happy Birthday

## September Staff and Spouse Birthdays

1	Bobby Parks	First New Church
2	Melannie Rhoad	ICC
5	Deborah Scott	Temple
5	Deloris Pettaway	Park Place
5	Kristy Johnson	Holland
8	Andre Salley	Trinity-WOF
10	Sheree Martin	Elizabeth River
11	Cathy Jones	First View
14	Julie Albritton	LifePoint
15	Tony Kohout	Buford Road
18	Dave Combs	Christ First
19	Katie Dininny	OV
22	Kim Chafee	King's Grant
24	Hank Brooks	Coastal



### SHRMP UPDATE

SHRMP was held June 22-30th. We had a total enrollment of 365 students at six sites. The team had 107 members, joined by twenty-three volunteers from local churches. We saw twenty-one folks trust Jesus as Savior!

Many thanks to The Bridge Network of Churches.

One of our sites was a Hispanic Community in Chesapeake. We were able to minister there due to the Hispanic members on the team. We discovered the need for translators not only on sites but also for team training. Next summer we would welcome any translators who would be willing to help.

David Slayton

## LET LEADERS LEAD

By Dr. Lynn Hardaway



It is not an uncommon scenario for a pastor to ask the question, "How can I find good leaders? We just cannot find the ones we need."

My response is always two-fold: first, **leaders come as a result of asking God to send them.** "Lord, we need someone to lead music." Or, "Father, send someone to teach the youth." At Blackwater Baptist Church, we prayed one Sunday as a congregation for God to send a youth director; two Sundays later, she and her husband came to visit the church, not knowing we were looking for a youth director! Deacons, teachers, builders, small group leaders... I have seen God send all of these because of prayer. "Ask and it shall be given to you." Jesus meant what He said!

Second, **the best leaders are not "found," they are "made."** They must be given the opportunity and the authority to lead so they can learn how to lead. If they are micro-managed or not trusted, their leadership skills will be limited, and they will not remain in the church. Let them lead and stay out of their way. Guide them if you see them making an irreversible mistake but support them and cheer for them and protect them from the nasty naysayers.

In his excellent book on leadership, *Extreme Ownership: How U.S. Navy Seals Lead and Win*, Jocko Willink writes about the subject of decentralized command. "There is a crossroads that most leaders face at one time or another and the choice they make greatly impacts their ability to lead as well as the effectiveness of their team. *That choice is whether the leader holds tight to their position and influence, or whether they train, empower, and trust others to lead under them.*"



A pastor or leader who cannot release their tight control on all details will never attract or build good leaders around them.

Leadership in a congregation is not about *controlling* people but *releasing* people to find and implement their God-given gifts.

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Tuesday, September 24, 10am**

If you are a Network pastor or Lay Representative, this meeting is for you. It looks at business that will be presented at the Fall meeting. It will be via Zoom and in the office. Spaces are limited at the office, so please email [admin@thebridgenet.org](mailto:admin@thebridgenet.org) or call 757-938-9793 to reserve your spot.



**SBCV Kids Ministry Conference**

**Open to all Churches**

**Saturday, March 22nd  
Great Bridge Baptist Church  
9:15 a.m.—4:00 p.m.**

### **Breakout Tracks**

- VBS (Lifeway's Magnified VBS)
- Children's Ministry
- Spanish

**Conference is FREE including lunch, resources, giveaways, and over 50 door prizes**

## **BABY BOUTIQUE**

Cooler weather is around the corner, and we have some cute clothes and shoes for little ones size NB to size 2 at Baby Boutique. We offer a onetime visit for families who could use some help. In addition to clothes, we also have various other items to choose from. Our inventory varies based on our donations. If you know of someone in your church or community who would benefit from our boutique, please have them go online to [www.thebridgenet.org](http://www.thebridgenet.org) and fill out a Baby Boutique application, found under Resource the tab. When I receive the application, I will be in touch to make an appointment.



We have received some generous donations lately and want to thank each and every one of you! We are truly blessed. Our needs are ongoing and specific needs vary from month to month. We are currently in need of disposable diapers in sizes 4, 5 and 6, towels and baby tubs, and boys size 2 fall and winter clothes. If anyone has donations, please contact me directly to schedule drop off arrangements or if you have any questions!

Thank you!  
Bonnie Cuthriell, Director  
757)681-7056

## **PASTORS' WIVES GATHERING**

**Eastern Shore Wives:** Thursday, September 5, 5pm, Little Italy Restaurant, Nassawadox, VA.

**Norfolk Area Wives:** Tuesday, September, 17, 11 am, First Watch, 2850 Virginia Beach Blvd, Ste. 104, Virginia Beach, VA.

**Western District Wives:** Tuesday, October 1, 12:30 pm, Serve Restaurant, 102 N. Main St., Franklin, VA.

**Please RSVP with Kim Jessie, text, 757-572-6134, or email, [kjessie@thebridgenet.org](mailto:kjessie@thebridgenet.org), if you will be attending.**

A promotional poster for the 4th Annual Women's Conference. It features a woman, Nicki Koziarz, standing on a wooden deck. The text includes "4TH ANNUAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE", "THE BRIDGE Network of Churches", "Ignite Hope", "NICKI KOZIARZ", "YOUR new NOW", "SAVE THE DATE", "SATURDAY FEBRUARY 22, 2025", "DOORS OPEN 8AM CONFERENCE 9AM AFTERGLOW 12:30PM ADDITIONAL CHARGE FOR MEAL", "EARLY BIRD &amp; GROUP RATE (10+) \$25 TIL JAN. 22ND \$30 TIL FEB. 19TH \$35 FEB. 20TH, 21ST, &amp; 22ND", and "THALIA LYNN BAPTIST CHURCH 4392 VIRGINIA BEACH BLVD VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23462".

## **Preschool and Children's Ministry Leaders**

Thursday, September 12, 9:30 am, Brickhouse Diner, 941 Providence Square Shopping Center, Virginia Beach, VA

**Please RSVP with Kim Jessie, text, 757-572-6134, or email, [kjessie@thebridgenet.org](mailto:kjessie@thebridgenet.org), if you will be attending.**





1407 Stephanie Way  
Suite F  
Chesapeake, VA 23320

**COSTAL VIRGINIA**  
**DNOW**  
WEEKEND

**OUTCAST**  
finding our place in God's kingdom

**DNOW** weekend is an opportunity for **Student Ministries** across Virginia to unite for a time of **Deep Teaching, Inspirational Worship, and Epic Games!**

Host Church  
**New Song Fellowship**  
865 Woodstock Rd.  
Virginia Beach VA, 23464

November 15-16 \$25

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