



A View From The Bridge

JANUARY 2020

EASTERN SHORE MINISTERS CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Eastern Shore ministers meet the first Tuesday in January. (January 7). They will meet at Crossroads Coffee Shop in Onley at 11:45am. Contact Andrew Matthews, 757-710-2352 for directions to the Coffee Shop.

Mission Impact 2019 Offering Received

Norfolk Area Goal:
\$10,500.00
Received: \$ 6,227.54



Executive Committee Meeting

The Executive Committee consists of the **Pastor and Lay Representative** from each church. The Committee will meet **Tuesday, January 28 Noon at Bayside Baptist Church** located at 1920 Pleasure House Road, Virginia Beach 23455. This will be a combined meeting of both sides of the Bay. The Executive Committee approves business that goes to the Annual Spring meetings.

Lunch will be provided

Please RSVP by Thursday, January 16th

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

Two Churches Unite for Ministry

Raleigh Heights Baptist Church in Chesapeake welcomed the members of Templo Bautista Gracia into their fellowship Sunday, December 15. It was a great day for God's kingdom and Pastors Shannon Terhune and Ruben Cortes as Cortes became the assistant pastor to Hispanic people. The Hispanic ministry will be named, *Iglesia Bautista de Raleigh Heights*. The Bridge Network of Churches is excited to be part of this new ministry!



JANUARY STAFF AND SPOUSE BIRTHDAYS

3	Norman March	Retired
10	Gazelle Phillips	Retired
18	Ryan Anderson	King's Grant
19	Greg Brinson	London Bridge
20	Scott Chafee	King's Grant
22	Bill Heffelfinger	Acts 2
26	Tinney Parrish	Central
27	Fred Braswell	Retired
27	Phillip Botts	Ingleside
28	Lynn Garrett	Level Green
29	Joe Price	Holy Trinity
29	Jen Zabel	Horizon
31	Marisa Sanchez	Cape Charles

WORKING WOMEN'S WARDROBE

The drop off date is Monday, January 6, 10am-Noon. We would love to assist ladies in our churches, please contact me with their information.

Laura Coleman; 757-651-3165 or
Laura.Coleman22980@gmail.com



HELPING OUR BI-VOCATIONAL PASTORS

Lynn Hardaway

We now have 49 pastors in the Network who work at jobs in the marketplace while pastoring a congregation. The pressures these men face include balancing their family, their church responsibilities and their workplace duties. Time is a high premium for them and finding enough of it to give their best to each area of their lives and ministries is a daily challenge.

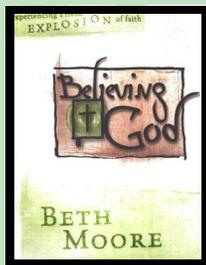
We are determined to do all we can to assist these men and their wives in their desire to serve God well.

Starting in January, once each month, Lynn and Maureen Hardaway are inviting bi-vocational pastors and wives to join them on a Friday night for a "Supper for Six" at a local restaurant. There is only one agenda: **initiate/strengthen friendships among couples who face common challenges in a busy but blessed life.**



The cost of the meal will be covered by the Network.

Please indicate your interest in participating: lhardaway@thebridgenet.org or text Lynn at: 757-572-6135.



NEW MEDIA LIBRARY RESOURCE "BELIEVING GOD"

By Beth Moore

Do you take God at His Word believing what He has told us, or do you just believe in His existence and the salvation He offers?

Beth Moore came face-to-face with this question well into adulthood. At first, her response to God was, "Lord, of course I believe in You. I've believed in You all my life." Over time, the Holy Spirit led her to understand He was saying, "I didn't ask you to believe in Me. I asked you to believe Me."

Based on Isaiah 43:10, "Believing God: Experiencing a Fresh Explosion of Faith" explores what it means to believe God. Through studying the lives of Abraham, Moses, and others from Hebrews 11 as examples of persons who believed God, Beth encourages you to deepen your own trust in God and receive a fresh word from Him.

Come by the office or call (757-938-9793) to reserve this kit.



ANNUAL SPRING MEETINGS

Eastern Shore: Zion Baptist Church on Tuesday, March 31.

Norfolk Area: To be announced, Thursday, April 2.

Mark your calendars, you don't want to miss this time together.

THE STORIES WE TELL

Kim Jessie

At the beginning of each year, I determine to be a better person in one or two areas of my life. One area where I am constantly at work is the area of conflict resolution. I have decided that if I can stop conflict before it starts, then I have less conflict to resolve. Makes sense.

According to *Crucial Conversations* by Patterson, Grenny, McMillan and Switzler, we frequently fill in the blanks with stories. Here's how the process goes: First, something happens. This is an actual event. We can give facts and details about what happened. Second, we don't truly understand everything; so, we fill in the blanks with a story. However, the story we tell may or may not be true. Third, the event and the story cause us to have feelings related to what happened. Fourth, the feelings generate a response that may or may not be appropriate to the event.



Let me share an example from my own life. I drive home from work in heavy traffic. Just as traffic begins to come to a stop, someone cuts me off causing me to slam on the brakes; so, I do not rear end them.



(These are the facts.) Because I do not know exactly what is going on in that driver's mind and vehicle, I fill in the blanks with a story: The thoughtless person disrespected me and assumed I could stop before running into them. This thoughtlessness causes me to become angry (feelings based on facts and story); so, I tailgate that car with the idea of making sure the driver knows I exist and that I should have been respected (inappropriate behavior).

Now, I am sure you have never reacted like this to a driver that cut you off; so, you may need to reflect on your own area of overreaction.

Two better responses are possible. First, no response. Just do not let the other person's behavior affect you. Do not tell yourself a negative story, and you will not have any feelings to cause an undesirable reaction.

Second, change the story you tell yourself. In the traffic story, what if I had told myself that the driver was a navy wife whose husband was deployed, and she had a sick toddler screaming in the backseat? Instead of anger, I might have felt compassion and backed off to give the driver plenty of space instead of tailgating. When I change the story, I change my behavior to a more appropriate response.



The stories we tell ourselves to explain the behaviors of others can negatively affect the way we respond. When we tell a supportive story, we change our feelings and our reactions to more appropriate ones. Let's strive to tell supportive stories instead of negative stories; so, we can be kind and Christ-like.

Happy New Year!

CHRISTMAS TOY STORE

Thank you to all who volunteered to work in the Toy Store, who gave toys or gave financially this year. There were 51 churches who provided gifts and/or volunteers; the Store



saw 2 people who re-dedicated their life to Christ; there were 105 families who applied through our churches shopping for 120 children; 15 families were helped through the Urban Ministries; 2 schools were given basketballs; and 10 families are looking for a church home.



VBS 2020 PREVIEW

Southside: February-date and location to be announced

Eastern Shore: March-date and location to be announced.

VBS Curriculum to be previewed will include publishers: LifeWay, Group, Concordia and Standard Press.

It is not too early to start planning for your VBS this summer.


THE BRIDGE
Network of Churches
1407 Stephanie Way
Suite F
Chesapeake VA 23320

CHURCH NEWS:

Central: hosted “Thankful For Us Marriage Conference”, a 2-day event on November 22-23, The conference was based on the study, The Art of Marriage. Sessions were led by various couples in the church, closing with a time for renewal of vows. Seventeen couples were in attendance.

Greenbrier: is seeking a preschool teacher for their 3 year old class in the Greenbrier Enrichment Center and School. For more information or to apply, contact Janine Hawkins, Martha White or Arlene Capps at 757-548-9280 or email them at admin@gecschool.org.



Office Phone: 757-938-9793

Network Missionary
Church & Community Missionary
Support Team Leader
Office Secretary
Office Secretary (ES)

Staff Connections

Donald Lynn Hardaway
Kim Jessie
Phyllis Wroton
Nichole Hensley
Betty Roberts

Website: www.thebridgenet.org

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