

OCTOBER 2026

# THE MESSENGER

**Talbot Park Baptist Church**

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## THE REVEREND'S RAMBLINGS

### OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Caleb Rustchak – 1  
Gabriel Rustchak – 1  
Wendy Patten – 11  
Henry Costas – 21  
Jana Hubner – 26  
Eric Martin – 28  
Shawn Brody - 31

Church Family,

As we continue our journey through Acts, I've been encouraged by how the early church learned to grow—not only in numbers, but also in health, leadership, and structure. As the church grew, they found ways to share responsibility, care for one another, and organize ministry around the mission God had given them.

Those are important lessons for us as we prayerfully consider the health and future of our church.

This fall, we are partnering with the Baptist General Assembly of Virginia (BGAV), our long-standing partners, through a six-month training process called "Blue Skies." The name reflects our desire to see clearly the possibilities God may have for our future. Together, we'll look honestly at our church's story, health, strengths, and opportunities as we seek God's direction. The BGAV team will provide an update at our October 25 business meeting.

October also brings our pumpkin patch, a wonderful opportunity to welcome our community and build relationships. Volunteers are needed, and I hope you'll consider giving some time to help make this outreach possible.

Please mark your calendar for Sunday, October 25th, for our Church Business Meeting. I look forward to gathering together, hearing the BGAV team's update, and continuing to seek God's direction for our church.

Thank you for your prayers, faithfulness, and willingness to walk through this season together. I'm grateful to be on this journey with you!

In Christ,

-Daniel



## **PUMPKIN PATCH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

September 27-October 31  
Mon-Fri 3:00pm-7:00pm  
Saturdays 10:00am-6:00pm  
Sundays 12:00pm-6:00pm

Fall is quickly approaching, and we are so excited for another year of reaching our community with the pumpkin patch! This year sign-ups for pumpkin sales volunteers will be done through sign up genius as well as on the bulletin board by the front desk. The link is included in the weekly announcements emails. If you have any questions about volunteering for pumpkin sales, please contact the main office.

Our annual fall festival is Saturday, October 24th from 4-6pm. We are looking for at least 10 volunteers to decorate their trunks and pass out candy for the Trunk or Treat portion of the festival. Please email [hcostas@talbotparkpreschool.org](mailto:hcostas@talbotparkpreschool.org) or call the church office if you are interested in participating. This year there will be a bounce house, petting zoo, face painting, and more.



We are excited for the return of our Chili Cookoff during the fall festival on Saturday, October 24th at 4:00pm.

There will be entry forms on the information table by the conference room. Detailed instructions will be emailed following your entry. There will be first, second, and third place prizes. We look forward to the taste test!



## **VCC RUMMAGE SALE**

Virginia Children's Chorus is accepting donations for their annual Rummage Sale to be held in the parking lot at TPBC on Saturday, October 17 from 9:00am - 1:00pm. Cleaning Out? Deciding whether to Donate or Keep? Donate your gently used goods from now until Monday, October 12.

We accept household goods, working appliances & electronics, toys, books, trinkets, tools, small furniture, costume jewelry & fashion accessories, Halloween costumes, holiday decorations, etc. All items must be clean and in working order and no clothing accepted except Halloween costumes.

Please, no old TV's or computer monitors. Call the VCC office (757-440-9100) to drop items on a weekday or during our rehearsals on Monday or Tuesday evenings at TPBC. If you are donating furniture, we cannot accept large items like desks or beds. Thank you for your help to make our 16th rummage sale fundraiser another success!

## **QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING**

Our quarterly business meeting will be held on Sunday, October 25th. Lunch will be served at 12 noon and the meeting will begin at 12:45pm. The lunch is \$10.00 per person, please make your lunch reservations no later than Monday, October 19th.

The menu is:

- Baked Ziti with Meat Sauce
- Green Beans
- Salad
- Spiced Apples
- Various Desserts



## Preschool News

We are looking forward to an exciting fall! We have had a great first full month of our new school year and we are excited to have picture day coming up next week! There will be some awesome events planned over the month of October! We hope to see you all there!

*Holly Costas*

## LUNCH OUT

On Sunday, October 4, everyone is invited to join us for lunch at Azalea Garden Inn after the Worship Service (11am). Please RSVP by signing the sheet on the table or calling the church office by September 28th.

## THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

The Mission Committee is sponsoring Thanksgiving boxes to provide food for families in need. The boxes will be distributed by the Storehouse Ministry in East Ocean View. Lists of needed items will be available beginning Sunday, October 18. They need to be returned by November 15 so they can be distributed before Thanksgiving day. Turkeys will be purchased by the Missions Committee funds.

Box of mashed potatoes  
Canned cranberries  
Canned sweet potatoes  
Cake mix  
2 cans of green beans  
Canned frosting  
2 cans of corn  
French fried onions  
Stuffing  
Cornbread mix  
Canned gravy  
Mac and Cheese  
Cream of Mushroom soup



## PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE PROGRESS REPORT

Dear Church Family,

The Senior Pastor Search Committee would like to take this opportunity to provide you with an update on the work of the Search Committee and, more importantly, remind each of us of the spiritual significance of the journey we are on together.

The search for our next Senior Pastor is not simply the process of filling a position. We believe we are seeking the person whom God is calling to shepherd, lead, teach, encourage, and serve our church family in the season ahead. Because of this, the committee has approached this responsibility with prayer, humility, patience, and a deep sense of accountability to the Lord and to our congregation. To date, the committee has reviewed 14 applications for the Senior Pastor position. From those applications, an interim pastor was selected and called to serve our church during this season of transition. In addition, five candidates have been considered for the permanent Senior Pastor position. The committee continues to prayerfully evaluate these possibilities while remaining open to additional candidates whom God may bring before us.

The full time Senior Pastor position has been listed with several organizations and networks, including Regent University, the Baptist General Association of Virginia, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, and the Bridge Network of Churches. Other avenues for identifying potential candidates are also under consideration as we seek to make the search as thorough as possible.

## **PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE PROGRESS REPORT, CONT.**

Each applicant and candidate who has been interviewed or considered has been treated with the utmost confidentiality, respect, and care. We recognize that those who enter into a pastoral search are entrusting the committee with personal information, their ministry experiences, their families, and their understanding of God's calling upon their lives. We take that trust seriously.

Our conversations and interviews have not been approached simply as an exercise in reviewing résumés or qualifications. We have sought to listen carefully, ask meaningful questions, learn about each candidate's ministry and faith journey, and prayerfully discern whether there may be a mutual sense of God's leading. Each candidate has been considered with discernment and deep spiritual consideration. We want our church family to know that this process has not been rushed or taken lightly. We understand that there is a natural desire to know who our next pastor will be, and we share that desire. Yet we believe that a decision of this spiritual importance deserves the time necessary to pray, listen, discern, and seek God's direction.

In many ways, this process is a marathon and not a sprint. We are committed to moving forward faithfully, one step at a time, trusting that God's timing is greater than our own. While we cannot predict exactly when the search will conclude, we can commit ourselves to being diligent, prayerful, and faithful in the responsibility we have been given.

We are thankful that the committee continues to move forward in unity, with faith and hope, believing that God is at work even when the path ahead is not yet completely clear. We have great expectations for the future of our church and are trusting that the Lord has good and significant things in store for our church family and its ministry.

We ask you, our church family, to continue to pray for the committee and for the task we have been assigned. Please pray for:

- God's guidance and wisdom as we evaluate each candidate.
- Discernment to recognize the person God is calling to serve as our next Senior Pastor.
- Unity within the committee as we prayerfully work through each stage of the process.
- The candidates and their families, that God would guide and strengthen them as they consider this calling.
- Patience and perseverance for all of us as we wait upon the Lord.
- And above all, that God's will ... will be accomplished in the life and future of our church.

We are grateful for your prayers, your patience, and your trust. The committee does not take this responsibility lightly. We recognize that we are not merely searching for a pastor; we are seeking God's direction for the shepherd who will help lead our church family into its next season of ministry.

Let us continue this journey together with faith, hope, unity, patience, and expectation, trusting in the Lord and believing in the great things He has in store for our churches' future.

Thank you for praying with us, encouraging us, and most of all, trusting God throughout this process.

With gratitude and continued prayer,

The Senior Pastor Search Committee



# October 2026



| Sun                                                                                                         | Mon                                 | Tue                                         | Wed                             | Thu                                                               | Fri | Sat                                                                                                               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                             |                                     |                                             |                                 | 1                                                                 | 2   | 3                                                                                                                 |
| 4<br>10:00am<br>Communion<br><br>11:00am<br>Lunch at<br>Azalea Garden Inn                                   | 5                                   | 6                                           | 7<br>7:00pm<br>Choir Rehearsal  | 8                                                                 | 9   | 10                                                                                                                |
| 11                                                                                                          | 12<br>Office Closed<br>Columbus Day | 13                                          | 14<br>7:00pm<br>Choir Rehearsal | 15                                                                | 16  | 17<br>9:00-2:00<br>VCC Rummage Sale                                                                               |
| 18                                                                                                          | 19                                  | 20                                          | 21<br>7:00pm<br>Choir Rehearsal | 22<br>7:00pm<br>Church Council<br>and Deacons<br>Combined Meeting | 23  | 24<br>4:00 - 6:00<br>Fall Festival<br>&<br>Chili Cookoff                                                          |
| 25<br>12:00pm<br>Quarterly Business<br>Meeting<br><br>4:30pm<br>Comfort Meals<br>@ Ronald<br>McDonald House | 26                                  | 27<br>2:15pm<br>Birthday Club<br>@ Bay View | 28<br>7:00pm<br>Choir Rehearsal | 29                                                                | 30  | 31<br>HAPPY<br>HALLOWEEN<br> |