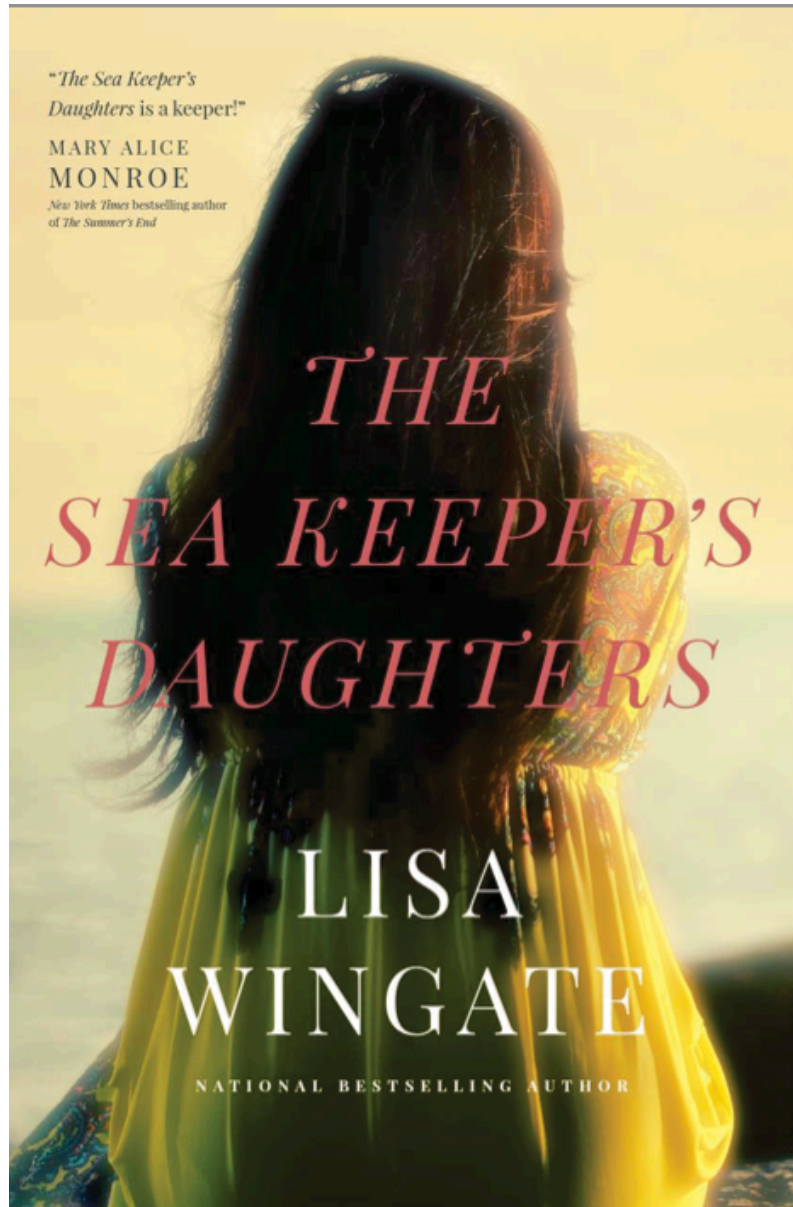


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"Readers will delight in this compelling saga that sweeps from past to present, coastline to mountains. Compassion and forgiveness pave the road to redemption in this gem of a book.

The Sea Keepers' Daughters is a keeper!"

— *Mary Alice Monroe, NY Times best selling author of The Summer's End.*

THE SEA KEEPER'S DAUGHTERS

by Lisa Wingate

September 1, 2015. Tyndale House Publishers

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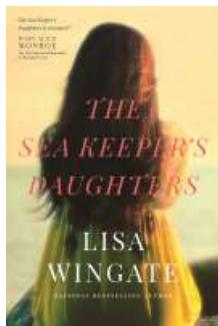
**LISA WINGATE'S *THE SEA KEEPER'S DAUGHTERS*
RELEASES SEPTEMBER 1, 2015**

About the book

From modern-day Roanoke Island to the sweeping backdrop of North Carolina's Blue Ridge Mountains and Roosevelt's WPA folklore writers of the Federal Writers' Project, past and present intertwine to create an unexpected destiny....

Restaurant owner, Whitney Monroe, is desperate to save her business from a hostile takeover. The inheritance of a decaying Gilded Age hotel on North Carolina's Outer Banks may provide just the ray of hope she needs. But things at The Excelsior are more complicated than they seem. Whitney's estranged stepfather is entrenched on the third floor, and the downstairs tenants are determined to save the historic building. Searching through years of stored family heirlooms may be Whitney's only hope of quick cash, but will the discovery of an old necklace and a depression-era love story change everything?

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Lisa Wingate's, *The Sea Keeper's Daughters* Unearths Lost Roosevelt-Era Treasures

It's 1935. First lady, Eleanor Roosevelt cajoles her husband into signing an executive order creating what will become Federal Project Number One. The results will touch every corner of a vast but struggling country, yet eighty years later will be virtually forgotten.

“Those involved in Federal One were far ahead of their time. They were the beginning of the Civil Rights movement before there was a Civil Rights movement.

They pushed toward equality for women before anyone was talking about equal opportunity,” says Lisa Wingate, whose new novel, *The Sea Keeper's Daughters*, follows the struggles of a young woman hired into the Federal Writer's Project, a subdivision of Federal One.

“Roosevelt's Federal Writers faced incredible challenges. They were told to document the stories of real lives and real people struggling to survive the Depression. Their mandate was to be all-inclusive, to break down hard and fast societal boundaries, much like Kathryn Sockett's character does in *The Help*, when she interviews black maids in the South. The Federal Writers not only documented

the natural wonders of the country, but the hidden lives of minorities, working women, immigrant laborers, sharecroppers, and others typically ignored by the history books.”

While Wingate's tale is fictional, the experiences of a Federal Writer are vividly brought to light when a modern-day woman discovers the letters of a great aunt who was disowned by her wealthy family after signing on with the WPA as a Federal Writer. Through Alice's letters, Wingate describes the experiences of a woman traveling into the unknown, all for the sake of a story

Like Alice in Wingate's novel, the Federal Writers often found themselves on the wrong sides of local powerbrokers, special interest groups, and eventually Congressional committees hunting for communists at the dawn of the Red Scare. As political fortunes changed, thousands of stories documented by the Federal Writers were quietly hidden away in filing vaults.

Now, thanks to the Internet and the Library of Congress many of those narratives are available for the first time since they were written. “These stories show us where we come from as a country and as a people. They inspired novels like Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*, yet so many of us know little about the Federal Writers themselves. I wrote *The Sea Keeper's Daughters* to bring to light not only the lives of the people on the pages, but the lives of the people behind the pens.”

Through Wingate's novel, eighty years of dust are whisked away and the Federal Writers are finally given a bit of long-overdue but well-deserved recognition.

Publishing Details

Pub Date: September 8, 2015 Pages: Approximately 400 Trim: 5 1/2 x 8 1/4 Category: Fiction/Contemporary Women

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Meet Lisa Wingate

Official Bio (short)

Selected among *Booklist's* Top 10 for two consecutive years, Lisa Wingate skillfully weaves lyrical writing and unforgettable settings with elements of traditional Southern storytelling, history, and mystery to create novels that *Publisher's Weekly* calls "Masterful" and *Library Journal* refers to as "A good option for fans of Nicholas Sparks and Mary Alice Monroe."

Lisa is a journalist, an inspirational speaker, and the author of twenty-five novels. She is a seven-time ACFW Carol Award nominee, a multiple Christy Award nominee, a two-time Carol Award winner, and a 2015 *RT Booklovers Magazine* Reviewer's Choice Award Winner for mystery/suspense. Recently, the group Americans for More

Civility, a kindness watchdog organization, selected Lisa along with Bill Ford, Camille Cosby, and six others as recipients of the National Civies Award, which celebrates public figures who work to promote greater kindness and civility in American life. *Booklist* summed up her work by saying, "Lisa Wingate is, quite simply, a master storyteller." More information about her novels can be found at www.lisawingate.com.

Official Bio (long)

Selected among *Booklist's* Top 10 for two consecutive years, Lisa Wingate skillfully weaves lyrical writing and unforgettable settings with elements of traditional Southern storytelling, history, and mystery to create novels that *Publisher's Weekly* calls "Masterful" and *Library Journal* refers to as "A good option for fans of Nicholas Sparks and Mary Alice Monroe."

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Lisa was inspired to become a writer by a first-grade teacher who said she expected to see Lisa's name in a magazine one day. Lisa also entertained childhood dreams of being an Olympic gymnast and winning the National Finals Rodeo but was stalled by a mental block against backflips on the balance beam and by parents who stubbornly refused to finance a rodeo career. She was lucky enough to marry into a big family of Southern tall tale tellers who would inspire any lover of story. Of all the things she treasures about being a writer, she enjoys connecting with people, both real and imaginary, the most. More information about her novels can be found at www.lisawingate.com.

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Praise for Wingate's Writing

"A gift for crafting a story. Lisa Wingate never disappoints." – *USA Today*

"*The Prayer Box* a 2013 resort-area bookstore bestseller" – *Washington Post*

"Wingate is, quite simply, a master storyteller." – *Booklist*

"Relatable characters and vivid portrayals of events both current and historical create an enchanting, memorable pilgrimage." – *Publishers Weekly*

"Wingate writes with a sensitivity and lyricism so effortless." – *ForeWord Reviews*

"A rising star in the world of women's fiction." – *RT Bookreviews Magazine*

"Alive with people you'd like to know and places you'd like to be." – *Detroit Free Press*

"A beautiful lyrical style reminiscent of those of Mary Alice Monroe and Patti Callahan Henry." – *Booklist (Starred review & a Booklist Top 10 of 2013 Pick)*

"A moving and inspiring story with interesting characters and a colorful Southern backdrop. A good option for fans of Nicholas Sparks and Mary Alice Monroe." – *Library Journal*

"Lisa Wingate is a glorious storyteller!" – *New York Times bestselling author Adriana Trigiani*

"I am in awe of Lisa Wingate's Talent." – *New York Times bestselling author Debbie Macomber*

"Gripping...compassionate and lyrical...reminds us that it is love that changes our world."
– *New York Times bestselling author Patti Callahan Henry*

"A story beautifully told, with richly drawn characters that will...make you want to laugh and cry."
– *New York Times bestselling author Karen White*

"Teaches us that it's never too late to open our hearts." – *Southern Lady Magazine*

“Will touch your heart from the first page to the last.” – **Kristin Hannah, bestselling author of Firefly Lane**

“An excellent read for any reason. A celebration of the power of love.” – **El Paso Times**

“Lisa Wingate is making a national name for herself as an excellent storyteller.”
– **Abilene Reporter-News**

“Expect both smiles and tears as you read this beautiful novel [*The Prayer Box*],but do read it. You won't be sorry.” – **USA TODAY**

Praise for The Story Keeper

“*The Story Keeper* is a novel of remarkable depth and power. Not since *To Kill a Mockingbird* has a story impacted me like this. You will want to read it and reread it, then pass it along to everyone you know.”

– **Colleen Coble, USA Today bestselling author of Seagrass Pier and the Hope Beach series**

“A kaleidoscope of past and present, *The Story Keeper* finds the soft spot of our souls where who we were, stands face to face with who we are. Can we go home again? Faith, courage and the power of story are the backbone of generations of the Appalachian women you'll meet in these stories. I was captivated by this story and can't wait to share it with my customers.

Lisa Wingate, you rock!”

– **Karen Schwettman, co-owner of FoxTale Book Shoppe, Woodstock, Georgia**

“Moving to New York City doesn't break the strong ties to her Appalachian heritage the way Jen Gibbs hopes it will. She finds her ancestors beckoning her when an anonymous manuscript mysteriously appears on her desk. *The Story Keeper* mixes soul deep darkness with the possibility of redemption. Lisa's writing is as lovely as the mountains and as with all of Lisa's books, at the end I want more!”

– **Gee Gee Rosell, owner of Buxton Village Books, Hatteras Island, North Carolina**

“Ideal for anyone who enjoys books by master storytellers such as Adriana Trigiani or Karen White. *The Story Keeper* is an inspirational tale about a complex heroine who has managed to survive by navigating around her scars. Set in the captivating world of rural Appalachia, the mountains play a powerful role in this lyrical tale that transports readers across time through a magical and beautiful journey.”

– **Julie Cantrell, New York Times and USA Today bestselling author of Into the Free**

“Fans of both historical and contemporary fiction will delight in Lisa Wingate's latest tale. *The Story Keeper* is a modern day quest that beckons readers into the Appalachian lore of yesteryear. The story threads wind and curl in unexpected directions, ultimately weaving an exquisite tapestry. Simply put, *The Story Keeper* is enchanting, inspiring, and beautifully told.”

– **Denise Hunter, bestselling author of *Dancing with Fireflies***

“Lisa Wingate is a master storyteller. *The Story Keeper* is just that...a keeper. A story of hope and redemption that will inspire your heart.”

– **Rachel Hauck, bestselling author of *Princess Ever After***

“This stunning narrative is exactly what a novel should be; beautifully written with real characters that come to life on the page, a captivating plot with a behind-the-scenes peek into the world of book publishing, and an intriguing and emotional element of mystery.”

– **Kellie Coates Gilbert, author of *Mother of Pearl and Where Rivers Part***

Praise For The Prayer Box

“[A] masterful exploration of the road to redemption.” – **Publisher’s Weekly**

“[A] gorgeously written, true gem of a novel.” – **RT Book Reviews Magazine (Top Pick)**

“Moving and inspiring, a good option for fans of Nicholas Sparks and Mary Alice Monroe.”
– **Library Journal**

“*The Prayer Box* is a masterpiece of storytelling and skill.” – **Debbie Macomber**

“Transcends simple hope and healing.” – **Karen White**

“Beauty and so much heart.” – **Sarah Jio**

“Guarantee...you won’t be able to put it down.” – **Fresh Fiction**

“*The Prayer Box* is a beautiful and compelling story about the gentle waters of grace that ripple through our lives, bubbling up in the most unexpected places and bringing a sense of calm and purpose where once there was fear and anguish.”

– **Glenn Dromgoole, Abilene Reporter-News and Texas Reads**

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"Tenderly woven. Skillfully threaded. A grab-your-heart story about faith, the healing power of love and how both are often found in unlikely places."

- **Charles Martin, -- New York Times Bestselling author of Unwritten**

"Lisa Wingate has a gift with words--her vivid prose brings each page to life."

- **Darien Gee, National Bestselling Author of The Avalon Ladies Scrapbooking Society**

Accolades and Awards

Southern Independent Booksellers Alliance, Okra Pick *The Story Keeper*

Pulpwood Queens Worldwide Book Clubs May 2015 pick, *The Story Keeper*.

Three-time Christy Award finalist.

Utah Library Award winner.

LORIES Best Fiction Award Winner.

ACFW Carol/Book of the Year (seven-time nominee)

Carol Award (two-time winner)

Oklahoma Book Award Finalist

American Profiles Book Pick

RT Magazine Reviewer's Choice Award Winner

Native American Book Club Pick

Top 10 of the year Booklist pick 2012

Top 10 of the year Booklist pick 2013

Top 10 of the Year Readers Choice, Family Fiction

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Q&A with Lisa Wingate

Your stories so often involve fascinating bits of history. Can you tell us about the inspiration for *The Sea Keeper's Daughters*?

I never know where my stories will come from. While working on my first Carolina book, set on the Outer Banks, I became fascinated with the mystery of the Lost Colonists of Roanoke Island. You can't spend time on the Carolina Coast without realizing that theories abound as to the fate of the 117 people who vanished from Sir Walter Raleigh's ill-fated colony over thirty years before the Pilgrims would land on Plymouth Rock. While writing my second Carolina book, *The Story Keeper*, I delved into the mystery of what early explorers deemed to be "blue-eyed Indians," who were found to have been living in the Appalachian mountains decades before other Europeans pressed in. I knew that the third Carolina book would somehow bring these two fascinating bits of history together.

An interesting thing happened when *The Story Keeper* hit the bookstores. Because the novel is about the discovery of an untold story, readers began sharing their own family stories with me. One reader mentioned that she'd traveled through the mountains many times as a child and one day had noticed that there were doors in the mountainside. When she asked about the doors, her father told her that during the Depression, families who lost their farms or had no place to live would often move into a nearby cave. Many salvaged doors, windows, and furniture from their repossessed homes before leaving and used those to outfit their new cave houses. I couldn't resist researching that tale, but I found very little about Americans living in caves during the Depression. What I did come across were life history interviews written by participants in a little-known WPA program called the Federal Writers' Project. The Project hired impoverished writers, academics, housewives, and reporters, then turned them into Field Interviewers whose jobs were to travel the hidden corners of America and record the stories of the common man. The adventures of these Federal Writers were equally as fascinating as the narratives and stories they discovered during their travels.

What might a modern woman discover, I wondered, if she were to happen to find the long-hidden missives of a relative who had left behind her wealthy family to become a Federal Writer? Could she possibly discover, among mountain stories handed down by oral tradition, not only her own family history, but a clue to one of America's oldest mysteries?

The Appalachian setting is a character of its own in the book. Why did you set the historical portion of the book there?

Appalachia is a place where the air fairly whispers with stories. So much of the world has become too fast-paced these days, too busy for sitting and listening, too preoccupied with the future to devote effort to retelling the past. But in Appalachian culture, there's still a reverence for it.

There are still storytellers who can entertain a crowd at a ramshackle café, on a back porch, or at the kitchen table over coffee. That tradition of the importance of story is at the heart of Alice's journey as a Federal Writer in the historical portion of *The Sea Keeper's Daughters*.

Appalachia is filled with mist and mystery. It lends mood to a story. The mountains are dotted with isolated communities where people can live differently, undisturbed by outsiders. It's also the place where mysterious "little races" like the Melungeons lived historically, and in some cases still do. Even today, the heritage of "blue-eyed Indians" discovered in the Appalachians by the first English and French explorers remains a mystery. What were the origins of their Caucasian blood? Were they descendants of shipwrecked sailors? Journeying Norsemen or Turks? The progeny of the Lost Colonists who vanished from Roanoke Island without a trace, decades before the Pilgrims landed on Plymouth Rock? The mystery fascinated me, and it pulled the story from me, and yes, both Roanoke Island and the Blue Ridge Mountains became characters in themselves as the dual storylines developed.

***The Sea Keeper's Daughters* tells a story within a story. Was this a challenge to write?**

It's always a challenge to balance dual time frames and a story within a story. It falls in the category of double-the-work and double-the-risk, but also double-the-fascination and double-the-reward. There's twice as much research, but in doubling the research, you also discover twice as many interesting historical facts, unanswered questions, and nearly-forgotten true stories. Those things weave new threads into the story loom. For me, the biggest challenge was balancing the two stories, ensuring that both the narratives of both Whitney and Alice would be fully satisfying, and that the historical story would serve a purpose in modern-day characters' lives.

What inspired you to become a writer?

A special first grade teacher, Mrs. Krackhardt, put the idea of being a real writer into my head. She found me writing a story one day at indoor recess, and she took the time to stop and read it. When she was finished, she tapped the pages on the desk to straighten them, looked at me over the top and said, "You are a wonderful writer!" That was a defining moment for me. In my mind, I was a writer. When your first grade teacher tells you that you can do something, you believe it.

I was only in her class for a few months before we moved again, but during that time, she left an indelible mark on my life. It's funny how we have defining moments in our lives, and that time in Mrs. Krackhardt's class was one of mine. For years, I couldn't have told you what she looked like, or whether she was a young teacher or an old teacher, but I could have told you that she said I was a wonderful writer. When I left her class, she wrote on my report card, "Keep that pencil working with that wonderful imagination, Lisa!" and "I expect to open a magazine and see her name listed among the contributors." I still have that report card, and I never forgot those words, or the way her confidence in me gave me confidence. Publishing is a difficult business, but I always believe I could do it, because my first grade teacher told me so.

How did you write 25 books in 15 years with kids at home?

I've always loved to write, but I didn't get serious about freelance writing and selling until after I'd graduated from college, married, and started a family. I wrote and sold various smaller projects during naps and between diaper changes, meals, and playgroups. And when the boys were older, during soccer practices, in carpool lines, while helping with homework, and in all sorts of other situations.

People often ask me if I need quiet in order to write. With boys in the house, if I'd waited for quiet, the writing would never have happened. I learned to lose myself in a story amid the noise of life and I loved it that way.

I asked myself what makes a story last, what really makes a story worth telling and worth reading? I wanted to write books that meant something, that explore the human soul.

One day, I came across a notebook in which I'd written some of my grandmother's stories. I'd never known quite what to do with those stories, but I knew they were significant in my life. When I rediscovered the notebook, I had the idea of combining my grandmother's real stories with a fictional family who is like and unlike my own family. That little germ of an idea became my first women's fiction novel, *Tending Roses*.

I set a goal for the number of pages to be written per day and I was off to my imaginary world on Grandma Rose's farm. Sometimes those pages were written late at night after the boys' bedtime. Occasionally on a busy week, the goal was reached on the weekend while the boys were busy with their dad.

Now that the boys are grown and the house is quiet, I'm redefining the writing routine again. Just as in books, life is a series of scenes and sequels, beginnings and endings, and new discoveries.

SPEAKING TOPICS FOR LISA'S TOUR

The Sea Keeper's Daughters – Learn about the untold history that inspired *The Sea Keeper's Daughters* novel. The lives of Roosevelt's Federal Writers and the stories they discovered are fascinating in themselves, but they are only a portion of the mysterious history behind the book.

The Untold Lives of Roosevelt's Federal Writers – Amid the bleakness of the Great Depression, President Roosevelt sought to bolster a crumbling nation through the power of story. The Federal Writers' Project, championed by Eleanor Roosevelt, sent out-of-work writers, academics, housewives, and others along rural highways and backwoods hollows to document the experiences of former slaves, turpentine camp workers, hobos, cannery workers, fishermen, farmers, store owners, and field hands. Disbanded in 1939, The Project produced thousands of life history interviews, many of which were filed and forgotten decades ago. Travel with Lisa into the lives of the Federal Writers as they discover the soul of a hidden America... and learn how you can share their journeys through a new Library of Congress program.

The Women of the Depression-era Federal Writers' Project – In an era when men were viewed as the breadwinners, women became the quiet victims of The Great Depression. Unlike the other WPA programs, which focused on providing employment for men, the Federal Writers Project offered a beacon of hope for impoverished women. Championed by Eleanor Roosevelt, The Project employed a high percentage of women as field interviewers. From famous writers such as Anzia Yeierska and Zora Neale Hurston (who sometimes wore a gun belt while tramping the backroads to gather stories), to teachers and housewives, the women of the Federal Writers' project faced danger, suspicion, and political opposition, all for the sake of preserving a hidden America. Learn about their fascinating lives and the background behind Lisa Wingate's stunning new novel, *The Sea Keeper's Daughters*.

Telling Your Untold Story – Remember the days when visiting the local gas station or hardware store was a chance to chat and share stories? Remember when grandchildren sat at the knee of Grandma or Grandpa and soaked in the family lore? For generations, the histories of our families and communities have been preserved orally, but in our modern age, many stories are disappearing with our older generations. Don't let the stories of your family and community die out. Let Lisa inspire you to preserve your untold story and share it with future generations!

An Inspirational Teacher – Lisa recounts the story of the inspirational teacher who made a writer out of her and shares the history of her own family. As a writer, she has a special appreciation for the fact that, only two generations ago, census workers discovered her grandmother, poor, illiterate, and deemed by her own parents to be unworthy of an education because females needed only domestic skills.

From the Inside Out – Stories have the unique ability to change us from the inside out. Referred to by Booklist Magazine as, "Quite simply, a master storyteller, Lisa Wingate tells the stories of the real people who have inspired her novels and been inspired by her novels. We need not be

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professional writers to use our stories to affect, guide, and inspire others. Our life experiences can teach, comfort, and inspire. Learn tips and tricks that will encourage the sharing of stories among families, groups, and Sunday school classes.

The Prayer Box – Lisa Wingate talks about her multi award winning and bestselling novel, *The Prayer Box*. Any church can benefit from using prayer boxes within the church, within families, and as outreach to a larger world. Learn more about the many ways that this tradition of early Christians can be powerful personally and in a group setting.

MORE ABOUT LISA

For video clips of Lisa Wingate's television interviews and speeches:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/LisaWingatespeeches> (speeches)

<https://www.youtube.com/user/LisaWingate> (TV interviews & book videos)

For more about Lisa Wingate

Author's websites <http://www.lisawingate.com> ,
<http://www.ThePrayerBoxBook.com>
<http://www.TheUntoldStory.com>

Blogging at <http://www.SouthernBelleViewDaily.com>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/LisaWingateAuthorPage>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/SisterhoodOfTheTravelingBooks/>

Twitter <http://twitter.com/-!/lisawingate>

Youtube <https://www.youtube.com/user/LisaWingate>

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