



Lunch With Chaplain Lynn Litchfield

Thursday, January 19, 10:00 AM—1:00 PM

Hosted by Hermitage Baptist Church

RSVP for lunch reservations with the MTBA Office

Phone: 804-758-4385 or Email: Barbara@midtidewaterbaptist.org

Rev. Lynn Litchfield

Gracelnside's Director of Development

Rev. Lynn Litchfield had a front row seat to some of the most amazing transformations Christ made possible while serving as chaplain to Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women. As the original (and sole) Chaplain to Virginia's maximum-security women's prison for 11.5 years, well over 15,000 women cycled through FCCW where they had the opportunity to participate in the most developed religious program in any state penal institution.

For six of those years, Lynn also served the lone woman on death row, Teresa Lewis, and advocated for her care even after ceasing her job at FCCW. During this trying time, Rev. Litchfield was very involved in media interviews – even internationally. Published in Newsweek, The Guardian and Ethics Daily, Lynn enjoys writing and sharing her thoughts where faith and life intersect. Her advocacy put her in demand as a speaker on human rights and faith.

A graduate of University of Mary Washington and of Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond. Lynn was ordained by River Road Church, Richmond, Virginia. A dynamic speaker and conference leader, she puts her background in performing arts to good use. Her character, Hope, has been widely acclaimed as a powerful educational tool for Gracelnside.

**CHURCHES AND PASTORS
MID-TIDEWATER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
(December 2016)**

CHURCHES	PHONE NUMBERS	PASTORS	WEBSITE OR FACEBOOK
Beech Grove Baptist Church	804-642-5949		
Beulah Baptist Church	804-693-6298	Rev. Tom Cohick	
Bruington Baptist Church	804-769-3246	Dr. Roger Collier	www.bruingtonbaptistchurch.com
First Baptist Church of Harmony Village		Rev. Woodland Holmes	
Glebe Landing Baptist Church	804-758-2233	Rev. Gene Cumbia	Facebook
Gwynn's Island Baptist Church	804-725-2384	Dr. Ed Jordan	Facebook
Harmony Grove Baptist Church	804-758-5154	Rev. Chris Jessee	www.harmonygrovechurch.com
Hermitage Baptist Church	804-758-2636	Rev. Edward Harrow	www.hermitagebaptistchurch.com
Lower King & Queen Baptist Church		Rev. Terry Morrison	
Macedonia Baptist Church	804-725-5416	Rev. Michael Gregory	Facebook
Mathews Baptist Church	804-725-3707	Rev. Brian Kramer	www.mathews baptist church.com
Mattaponi Baptist Church		Rev. David Anthony	Facebook
New Freedom Congregation	804-693-5503	Rev. Walt McKibbin	
New Hope Fellowship	804-776-7600	Dr. Leonard Edloe	www.newhopef2010.org
New Hope Memorial Baptist Church	804-758-4895	Rev. Dan Grantham	
Newington Baptist Church	804-693-2349	Rev. Mike Gray	www.newingtonbc.org
Olivet Baptist Church	804-785-3931	Rev. Terry Morrison	
Petsworth Baptist Church	804-693-3024	Rev. John Pouchot	www.petsworthchurch.org
Poroporone Baptist Church	804-785-3948	Rev. Doug Davis	Facebook
Saluda Baptist Church	804-758-3102	Rev. Rob Marsh	www.saludachurch.org
Spring Hill Baptist Church	804-725-3500	Dr. Charles McDaniel	
St. Stephens Baptist Church	804-769-8833	Rev. Mark Holland	Facebook
Urbanna Baptist Church	804-758-2720	Dr. Bruce Powers	www.urbannabaptistchurch.org
Westville Baptist Church	804-725-3079	Rev. Dan Wood	www.westvillebaptist.com
Zoar Baptist Church	804-776-9502	Dr. John Snow	www.zoarbaptistchurch.org

Mid-Tidewater Baptist Association	804-758-4385	Rev. Eddie Heath (Director of Missions) Barbara Bareford (Office Administrator)	www.midtidewaterbaptist.org
-----------------------------------	--------------	---	--



The Holiday Season Is Here!

With Thanksgiving 2016 behind us and Christmas and New Year's just weeks ahead, it is a perfect time to think about a Holiday Season Strategy.

1. Don't get so busy doing that you miss the really important things like family, good friends, wonderful food, laughter, resting and our God who loves us unconditionally.
2. Look for an opportunity to do something really nice for someone that is normally not on your "be nice to list".
3. When you are making out your Christmas gift list, make sure you have Jesus on that list. Christmas is always a good time to make an extra offering gift to your church, missions, or some ministry that reflects the values of Christ.
4. I Thessalonians 5: 12-13, *"Acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care*

for you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in highest regard in love because of their work."

5. Be careful when you are working, driving, shopping, playing, in your home, at work, in the city or in the woods. Don't let a careless act ruin this Christmas for your family and friends.

Holiday Schedule for MTBA Office

The MTBA office will be closed the week of December 26-30. Even though the staff will be out of the office you will be in our prayers. If a situation arises that you need to speak with us, please do not hesitate to contact

Eddie at 804-921-3658

or by email at

eddie@midtidewaterbaptist.org

The Bottom Line

One of the ways I grade the effectiveness of a sermon is to ask "How many times do I reflect on a sermon after the worship service is over?". It has been over a month since our MTBA Fall Meeting and I still find myself thinking about the importance of fellowship in faith communities as well as "Re-Membering" and "Dis-Membering". I don't think I am the only one who is still thinking about what was presented at our Fall Meeting. There has not been a week since that gathering that I have not had a least one conversation with someone about our Fall Meeting.

In a time when there is so much division in the land, what a powerful reminder that the New Testament Church is all about "*re-membering*" not "*dis-membering*". We are called to be ambassadors of reconciliation and are urged to devote ourselves to the fellowship (Koinia) of the body of Christ. As I listened to Dr. Somerville prepare us for observing the Lord's Supper as an association, I was so aware of the diversity of thoughts and behaviors that were represented in the Hermitage sanctuary that Sunday afternoon. But because of our love and commitment to Jesus Christ, we were one. One in Christ, one in love, one in missions, and one in purpose. It seems that the powers of this world are doing everything possible to tear us apart, to dis-member us. But on Sunday afternoon, October 16, 2016, as we took the elements of the Lord's Supper as an association of churches we were one, we were re-membered. What a wonderful day that was. I thank God that I was able to be there with so many of you. I am blessed to be able to serve as your Director of Missions.

Thank you to Renee Davis and her Program Committee for putting together such a meaningful worship experience. Thank you also to the staff and members of Hermitage BC for hosting us in such a generous and welcoming way. It was an unforgettable Fall Meeting for the MTBA.

Eddie

Looking Ahead to 2017

There are some exciting things in the planning stages for the MTBA in 2017 and there are some dates set for some events that you will want to mark on your calendar now.

- Prayer gatherings each 2nd Monday night of the month at 7:00 PM.
- Ministers Conference the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 10:30 AM.
- January 18, bus trip to Fredericksburg for regional one day Preaching Conference
- January 19, A day with Lynn Litchfield in MTBA. Sr. Adult Lunch & Pizza Supper with MTBA youth. Lynn is a Chaplin in the Virginia Prison system.
- **April 16, EASTER SUNDAY**
- April 21, MTBA Golf Outing.
- April 30, MTBA Spring Meeting at St. Stephens BC.
- October 15, MTBA Fall Meeting at Zoar.
- Nov. 13-15, BGAV Annual Meeting in Hampton.

In The Planning Stage

- *Re-thinking Youth Ministry for the churches in the MTBA.* Led by Rev. Gannon Sims of Fresh Expression and others.
- The idea is to offer a book study of Rev. Chuck Harrison's book entitled "*What Happened to Our Church?*" When the book study is completed there will be a round table discussion with Rev. Harrison and Rev. Brian Williams, BGAV Field Strategist.
- Launching of a Grassroots Seminary opportunity. This is a combination **On line and Classroom** training offered by Dr. Brian Williams. The target group will be lay persons who just want a better grasp of the message and stories of the Bible.
- **Hands on Mission Opportunity** targeted for the MTBA area — Summer 2017.

It is going to be an exciting year for the MTBA. We want to encourage each person to take advantage of the opportunities that are of interest to you.

VBS Training

Many of the MTBA churches will offer Vacation Bible School opportunities for young children, teenagers, and adults this summer. It is not too early to begin thinking about and planning for the training of workers who will lead these VBS ministries.

We have contacted the BGAV office in Richmond, and they have informed us that there are VBS Assist Teams that are available to come the MTBA to provide training for our VBS teachers. They are willing to come to individual churches or to a group of MTBA churches. If this is something that you might have an interest, please contact the MTBA office: 804-758-4385.

New Delivery Strategy For MTBA Newsletter

At the September Executive Committee meeting it was reported that a new strategy for delivering the Tidings newsletter will begin in the fall of 2016.

In the past, Bulk Mail and E-mail were the two main ways that people could receive the MTBA newsletter. But this past summer major changes were made to the Bulk Mail requirements. These requirements were very time consuming and included pages of paper work that needed to be completed before the post office would accept our newsletter. After hours of talking with post office staff, the MTBA office staff felt it was time to make a change. Therefore, we have decided to no longer use Bulk mail as one of our primary ways of delivering our newsletter.

We will still send most of the newsletters electronically as we have in the past. But now we will also deliver a number of hard copy newsletters to each of our 25 churches. For those who would like a hard copy, they can now pick up a copy at their local church. The office staff has a rough idea about how many copies of the newsletter to deliver to each church, but we are aware that these numbers will change with each church from time to time in the future.

We would also encourage those who visit their homebound church members to take a copy of the newsletter with you to give to those you visit. We are confident they will enjoy the reading.

If you would like to start receiving the Tidings through e-mail, please contact the MTBA office and we will add your e-mail address to our distribution list. Phone: 804-758-4385 is the office number.

MTBA CHURCH NEWS, page 3, (December 2016)

Beulah: Dec. 23 at 7:00 pm: Christmas Program, Dec. 24 at 6:30 pm: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, Dec. 25 at 11:00 am Christmas morning Worship Service.

Bruington:

Dec. 24 at 4:30 pm: Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service.

Gwynn's Island:

This year's 1800 Advent Books, which we write and publish, will distribute free to 1800 families in our local area, numerous contacts in VA, KY, WY, CA, WV, NY, Idaho, TX, Hungary and Scotland. Please pray for God to get them into the right hands, and that His Word will change peoples lives this advent season. Pray for fruit.

Dec. 18 at 7 pm: our choir will present annual Christmas cantata; public is invited!

Harmony Grove:

Dec. 11 at 11:00 am: Christmas Cantata "Holding On To Christmas". Children's musical on Dec. 18 at 2:00 pm. Christmas Eve Candlelight Dec. 24 at 6:30 pm. Dec. 25 at 10:30 am Worship Service.

Hermitage:

Youth Choir present Christmas favorites Sunday, 12/18 at 11:00 am. Adult Christmas Cantata: 12/18 at 7:00 pm.

Dec. 24 at 7:00 pm: Christmas Eve Service & Communion. Dec. 25 at 11:00 am: Worship Service.

Lower King & Queen:

Rev. Terry Morrison called as Pastor. Welcome to MTBA!

Macedonia:

Dec. 24 at 6:30 pm: Christmas Eve Candle lighting service with violin accompaniment by Michael Gregg.

Mathews:

On Oct. 23 celebrated 240th anniversary. Dec. 21: Live nativity. Dec. 24: Candlelight Christmas Eve service.

Mattaponi:

December 18: Special music by Cigy Robeleski.

New Hope Fellowship:

Pastor Edloe was honored on 7/30 by the National Pharmaceutical Association with the Chauncey I. Cooper Award for outstanding achievement in the profession. Chauncey I. Cooper was the first African-American dean of a College of Pharmacy in the United States. He also founded the National Pharmaceutical Association in 1947. Pastor's Edloe's father was one of the original incorporators of the Association.

Olivet:

Rev. Terry Morrison called as Pastor. Welcome to MTBA! Christmas Program "And The Word Became Flesh" on Dec. 11 at 7:00 pm.

Saluda:

Christmas Eve Service at 5:00 pm. Dec. 25 at 11:00: Christmas Day Worship service.

Newington:

Dec. 11: Christmas cantata, "God Coming Down".

Spring Hill:

Dec. 18 at 7:00 pm Christmas Program "Adore Him". January Bible study: Malachi.

Urbanna:

Rev. Bruce Powers called as Interim Pastor. Welcome to MTBA! Dec. 10 at 10:00 am: Puppet Christmas Show. Dec. 25 at 11:00 am Worship Service.

Zoar:

Dec. 11: Children's Christmas Program. Dec. 18: Choir Christmas Cantata. Dec. 24 at 6:30 pm: Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion Service.

**MTBA FALL ASSOCIATION MEETING PICTURES
HERMITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH
OCTOBER 16, 2016**

Visit MTBA website (www.midtidewaterbaptist.org), click on "News" tab for additional pictures.



Ministry Outreach Trailer (MOT) Update

We just about finished our first season using our Ministry Outreach Trailer (MOT). It was used for 16 church events during 2016 with over 2,300 people in attendance. The trailer ministry continues to help us meet our MTBA mission of Serving, Cooperating, and Sharing. It has been a good first year.

As we prepare for our second season of use we have made a few changes to the reservation and use policy for MOT.

To reserve the Ministry Trailer, the following items must be in the MTBA office before the Trailer is considered reserved. The MOT will be reserved **after** MTBA office receives the following:

1. Insurance certificate per MTBA requirements. This is necessary to insure that the MTBA churches are protected in a satisfactory manner.
2. Completed Policy forms and Check Out/In List
3. A check for \$200. (refundable after receipt of MOT in same condition as when picked up and all contents are returned). It is important that our inflatables are rolled up in a manner that protects the material so we can use these inflatables for many years.
4. Pick up times for the trailer will be Monday–Wednesday, 8:30 am–2:30 pm, and return of trailer will be between Monday–Wednesday, 8:30 am–2:30 pm as well.

This will prevent office staff from having to come to work at the office on Friday evenings and Saturdays.

Thank you so much for helping us with these policies and procedures.



CHRIST: The reason for Christmas!



(Nativity scene in front of MTBA office)

*"For unto you is born this day in the city of David
a Savior, which is Christ the Lord."*

Luke 2:11

*There are many things to be thankful for as we
celebrate this Christmas Season. The wonderful gift of
God's son as an expression of His love for us would be at
the top of any list.*

*But we also want to take this opportunity to express
our love and appreciation for each of you who make up
our Mid-Tidewater Baptist Association family. It is a
joy for us to serve and minister beside you. We hope
that each of you and your families will have a blessed
and joyous Christmas.*

Eddie Heath, Director of Missions MTBA

Barbara Bareford, Office Administrator MTBA

Highlights of the 193rd BGAV Annual Meeting
November 14 – 16, 2016, Bonsack Baptist Church, Roanoke, VA
The Theme: The New Way - John 13: 33 – 35

“My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come. A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

Monday Evening: “The Shepherd’s Heart: A Believer’s Ministry”

The Bonsack Baptist Adult Choir, the Handbell Choir, and the Bonsack Brass 5 instrumentalists offered an amazing musical program organized around seven elements of the believer’s ministry: worship, prayer, proclamation, pastoral care, evangelism, personal relationship, vision and leadership. They presented much beloved hymns such as “Holy, Holy, Holy” and “His Eye Is On the Sparrow” relating them to each of these seven elements. You could feel the Holy Spirit moving across the audience that night. What a beginning!

Tuesday: Executive Director of the BGAV, John Upton, began by introducing two birth narratives:

In Acts 2 the first 120 believers come together through the power of the Holy Spirit and become Christ’s church on earth.

For the BGAV – we became the church when the initial 15 messengers met for the first Annual Meeting in 1823 and commissioned two young people, Jeremiah Jeter and Daniel White, to go west and plant churches.

John Upton then laid out the initiatives pursued by the BGAV over the past year to accomplish our three goals:

Developing - developing leaders and believers everywhere.

Sending – sending resources (people and money) to strengthen faith communities here and around the world through meeting basic needs such as combating hunger in VA and fighting malaria in West Africa with More Than Nets; through disaster relief from North Carolina to Nepal; and through working for peace and justice everywhere.

Planting - planting churches and congregations across the United States drawing in the unchurched and the churched who had walked away from church.

From David Washburn, the BGAV Treasurer, we learned that in 2016 \$10,700,000 in donations were collected and spent. By pooling our financial resources we were able to advance God’s Kingdom wherever we went. The 2017 BGAV Budget of \$10,000,000 was approved at the meeting, and we prayed that we could continue God’s work by raising the donations needed to cover this budget enable us to do the work of developing, sending, and planting.

Covenants of Shared Values, Mission and Vision Agreements were signed with Campbell University’s Divinity School and the Northern Baptist Theological Seminary. These relationships help to develop young pastors and connect us to them so that we can fill our pulpits with the men and women God is calling.

Highlights of the 193rd BGAV Annual Meeting (Page 2)

The message from Rev. Chris Cadenhead, Pastor of Bonsack Baptist Church, was based on I Corinthians 1: 18 – 31 and I Corinthians 2: 1-5. His message was that we need to keep crucifixion and resurrection of our Savior and the salvation we gained from Jesus' sacrifice central to the message we present this world. Jesus is truly what people who are lost are looking for.

At the Tidewater Regional Meeting the theme for our region was introduced: "Raising the Tide." Tides bring new things to shore and launch things to new places as well. That's what we hope to do across our Tidewater Region – we want to be like the tide by launching new initiatives, changing lives for Christ, reclaiming practices what have had meaning for us in the past, and connecting people to the rhythm of a personal relationship with the Lord.

Wednesday: We conducted the business of the BGAV by electing officers, Executive Board Members, and Mission Council Members.

We also reached back to our roots as VA Baptist and passed a resolution from the Religious Liberty Committee calling for the following:

Our government at all levels to refrain from discriminating against any group including Muslims and refugees on the basis of their religion,

Our religious and political leaders to characterize Islam and Muslims in a way that is fair, objective, and based on how Islam is interpreted and practiced by the overwhelming majority of Muslims in this country and not just by extremists such as ISIS,

Virginia Baptists, both individuals and churches, to speak out against anti-Muslim rhetoric and bigotry, learn about Islam, get to know their Muslim neighbors, meet and talk with them about their respective faiths and common concerns, such as religious liberty, and above all else show them the love of Jesus, and

Virginia Baptists to support the passage of laws that would prohibit denying refugees, immigrants, and visitors entry into the United States on the basis of their religion.

It was a proud and historic moment when this resolution was passed because it communicates powerfully that we truly practice loving God and loving our neighbors and that we believe absolutely in religious liberty for everyone.

The Memorial Service was held in which we remembered and honored those pastors and other leaders who have gone home to be with Jesus. Then we closed our Annual Meeting with a worship service.

Gabe Lyons delivered a powerful message calling on us to learn from the example of Daniel who lived in exile in a foreign land with a culture that was hostile to his faith and yet he was faithful to God and witnessed repeatedly to everyone around him. Daniel's example for us as we live in today's culture.

Lastly we had Communion together remembering that Jesus sacrificed Himself to save us. We left remembering that Jesus died to give us the gift of salvation and eternal life and commands us to love God, love our neighbor, and spread the Good News to the world.

Mid-Tidewater Baptist Association
P. O. Box 302
884 Gloucester Road
Saluda, VA 23149

Phone: 804-758-4385

E-mail: eddie@midtidewaterbaptist.org

barbara@midtidewaterbaptist.org

Website: www.midtidewaterbaptist.org

Office hrs: Mon.-Wed. 8:30 am-3:00 pm

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

Rev. Eddie Heath, DOM (Cell: 804-921-3658)

Barbara Bareford, Office Administrator

Preaching Conference Fredericksburg, VA

On Wednesday, January 18, 2017, Jim Ailor, Field Strategist for the Northern Region, will be hosting a conference for those individuals who are interested in improving their preaching skills. I don't have all the details yet, but the time frame is something like 9:30 AM - 12 noon. Jim has arranged for someone in the drama field to come and lead a presentation that deals more with the details of presentation than content.

I am working on getting a bus so we can travel as a group from this area up to Fredericksburg. If this is something that you would like to attend, please shoot me an email (eddie.heath@bgav.org). As soon as I get additional information I will pass that along as well.

I am also inviting our pastor friends in the Rappahannock Association as well. This will be a great opportunity to strengthen our relationships with fellow pastors in the RBA. Several of them have already begun to attend our MTBA Pastors Conference and this will be just another way of connecting with them.

Eddie

STAYING IN TOUCH

1. **Visit us:** 884 Gloucester Road,
(behind Saluda post office), 2nd floor,
Mon.-Wed. 8:30 am - 3:00 pm

2. **Call us:** 804-758-4385

3. **Communicate with us; e-mail:**

eddie@midtidewaterbaptist.org

barbara@midtidewaterbaptist.org

4. **Share our Stories**

On Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/MidTidewaterBaptists/>

5. **Stay Informed:**

Webpage

www.midtidewaterbaptist.org

MTBA Spring Choir



Susan Brooks has been working on putting an associational choir together which will perform at the 2017 MTBA Spring Meeting. If you like to sing and especially as a member of a choir, this will be a wonderful opportunity for you without making a long term commitment.

If you are interested in singing with MTBA Choir, please contact Susan Brooks at e-mail: sbrooks@ltmp.org or at (804)-815-6817 (cell).

Changing Church for a Changing World

Vision Day by Fresh Expressions

January 27, 2017, 9 AM — 3PM / Ivy Memorial BC, Hampton

Cost: \$35 / Register at www.freshexpressionsus.org

For more information contact

Gannon Sims, Virginia Regional Coordinator, Fresh Expressions

804-263-3855 or Email: gannon.sims@freshexpressionsus.org