

Week of Prayer for MTBA Associational Missions

May 20-27

There are two funding tracks for the Mid-Tidewater Baptist Association. One track is the regular giving support that our 26 churches provide to cover the day to day operation of MTBA as well as the funding resources that our Action Teams need to carry out their Mission and Action Plans. Some of the 26 churches give a percentage of their undesignated receipts, some churches give a set amount each month, some churches give monthly, some quarterly, and some give as they can.

The second funding track is the Week of Prayer Offering for MTBA Association Missions. This is an offering gift to the MTBA that is over and above the regular offering to one's church or to the MTBA. The funds received during the Week of Prayer Offering are used to fund the costs associated with the MTBA annual mission projects, such as Impact MTBA, Rise Against Hunger, and responding to extended repair projects after Impact MTBA.

This year's Annual Mission Project will once again be Rise Against Hunger. Last year we undertook this project and were able to pack over 20,000 meal packets on a Saturday in September. Because so much of the feedback that we received was a request to "do this again", the Community Ministries Action Group recommended to the MTBA that we once again take on a Rise Against Hunger project. However, this year our goal is to pack **50,000** meals. The cost associated with this project is **\$14,500**. With this information, I hope each one of our MTBA Families will be able to make a generous gift to this year's MTBA Associational Love Offering. Your MTBA leadership wants to thank you in advance for your gift. We look forward to serving with you at the **Rise Against Hunger** project on Saturday, September 22, at Hermitage BC.



The Bottom Line

I have heard from several folks who attended the MTBA Spring meeting and their comments have been very positive. I had more than one person tell me that it was the best associational meeting they had attended anywhere or at anytime. That just about left me speechless (almost but not entirely). I agree, it was a very good meeting.

Quality meetings do not just happen. It takes lots of work by lots of people who put forth their very best effort to create a high quality gathering like the MTBA Spring meeting. So I want to take this opportunity to say thank you to some people who played critical roles in this Spring Meeting.



Dr. Barbara Filling

Thank you to the folks at Harmony Grove BC. It was a lot of hard work to get things ready for the MTBA family. They did a fantastic job. Pastor Filling and her leaders could not have made us feel more welcomed. Thank you so much for your gift of hospitality.

Thank you to the MTBA Program Committee for doing a superb job of creating both an inspirational and informative gathering. Thank you and keep up the good work.

Thank you to the awesome breakout leaders and our keynote presenter, Matt Thornhill. WOW!!! The information they presented was great. I am confident that all of the learned things will help all of our churches and leaders do a more effective job of serving, cooperating, and sharing.

Eddie

Rise Against Hunger

- When:** September 22, 2018, 9:30 A M - 1:00 P M. Lunch to follow.
- Where:** Hermitage Baptist Church, Church View, VA.
- What:** Packing 50,000 meals in plastic bags that will be boxed and sent to some of the most under nourished people on the face of the earth.
- Who:** 180 Mid-Tidewater Baptist Association volunteers will gather as one family to live our mission of serving, cooperating, and sharing as we undertake this great project.

Next Steps:

1. Save the date: September 22, 2018.
2. Call the MTBA Office (804-758-4385) to sign up to serve as one of the volunteers to help package the 50,000 meals. You can sign up to serve 2 hours, 3 hours, or for the entire morning. We have a place for everyone.
3. Pray for this mission effort.
4. Give to the MTBA Associational Offering which is used to cover the cost associated with doing this Fight Hunger Project.

Church Volunteer Goals

1. Hermitage BC	15	11. Urbanna	10	20. FBC Harmony Village	2
2. Poroporone BC	15	12. Spring Hill	10	21. Mattaponi	2
3. Newington BC	15			22. New Freedom Congreg.	2
4. Mathews BC	15	13. Beech Grove	5	23. New Hope Memorial	2
5. Zoar BC	15	14. Beulah	5	24. Westville	2
		15. Bruington	5	25. Farnham	2
6. Harmony Grove BC	10	16. Lower K. & Q	5	26. New Hope Fellowship	2
7. St. Stephens BC	10	17. Macedonia	5		
8. Gwynn's Island BC	10	18. Saluda	5		
9. Olivet BC	10	19. Glebe Landing	5		
10. Petsworth BC	10				

Conflict Workshop A Big Success

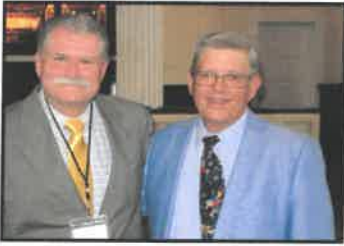
A Conflict workshop was held on Saturday, April 28, at Saluda Baptist Church.

Thirteen churches were represented with over twenty people in attendance. Mrs. Cynthia Shackelford, from Macedonia Church, was the workshop leader.

Cynthia has spent decades working in management / labor conflict with some of the largest unions and corporations in America. The training reinforced how important the commitment to dialogue is whenever folks are looking for healthy conflict resolution. Cynthia is available to work with our MTBA churches who want a better understanding of conflict issues.



Welcome Farnham Baptist Church



Rev. Rodney Morrison, Pastor
Farnham BC & Eddie Heath,
MTBA DOM, (left to right)

One of the highlights of the 2018 MTBA Spring meeting was the unanimous vote by the MTBA messengers to receive Farnham Baptist Church into the Mid-Tidewater Baptist Association. Conversations between the Farnham Baptist Church Leadership and MTBA Leadership has been going on for almost a year. In late 2017, Farnham made a formal request to begin the process of becoming a member of the MTBA. The Administrative Committee and the MTBA Executive Committee were all in favor of bringing the request from Farnham BC to a vote at the 2018 Spring Meeting. The vote was taken at the Spring Meeting, and it was unanimous to accept Farnham into the MTBA family.

Farnham is located between Kilmarnock and Warsaw in the Northern Neck part of VA. Rev. Rodney Morrison is their pastor. He has done a fantastic job of leading Farnham, and he and Farnham will be a great asset to the MTBA. Rodney has been attending the MTBA Pastors' Conferences as well as many of our MTBA gatherings. Rodney has a deep love for the Lord, His church, and people. The next time you see Rodney make sure you give him a warm MTBA welcome.

NEWS FROM OUR MTBA CHURCHES

Beech Grove: Fellowship annex (far right), Dedication service Dec. 17, 2017.



Bruington: Welcomed Rev. Fred Skaggs as Co Pastor (Feb. 2018).

Harmony Grove: Welcomed Dr. Barbara Filling as Interim Pastor (Jan. 2018). VBS 7/23 thru 7/27. Campground SS Ministry: 5/27-9/2.

Farnham: Welcomed into MTBA Family (April 2018)!

Hermitage: Note burning ceremony on 5/20 to celebrate fellowship addition loan paid in full, Rev. Amos Healy, guest speaker, as well as dedication of the prayer garden.

Lower King & Queen: Memorial Day Service at Olivet BC on 5/20 at 11:00 am, combined service with Olivet BC, guest speaker Mr. Leslie Sanders, special music by "Rappahannock Crossing".

Mathews: VBS 6/18 thru 6/22. CentriKid Camp 6/25-6/29.

Mattaponi: Music concert by "Solid Rock" on 6/10 at 11:00 am & 1:00 pm.

New Hope Memorial: Family Fun Day 9/29.

Newington: VBS 6/25 thru 6/29. Mission-Fuge Camp 7/9-7/13.

Olivet: Memorial Day Service on 5/20 at 11:00 am, guest speaker Mr. Leslie Sanders, special music by "Rappahannock Crossing".

Poroporone: Music concert on 5/20 at 11:00 am by "Covenant Ground."

Saluda: MTBA sponsored "Grassroots Seminary" on 5/31 at 7:00 pm by Dr. Brian Williams & Rev. Eddie Heath.

Spring Hill: Congratulations to Brody and Karson Marshall who were awarded the Jean Gwathmey Scholarship at MTBA WMU Gathering on April 29!

Urbanna: Music concert on 6/9 at 7:00 pm by "The Virginians Barbershop Chorus & Quartets". VBS 7/30 thru 8/3. Beth Moore Simulcast Sept. 15 (time to follow).

Zoar: Beach Worship 5/27—9/2.

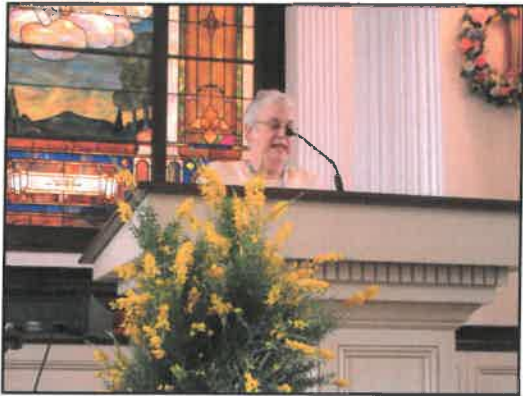
MTBA SPRING MEETING, APRIL 15, 2018 — HARMONY GROVE BC
(additional pictures at: www.midtidewaterbaptist.org, click “News” tab.)



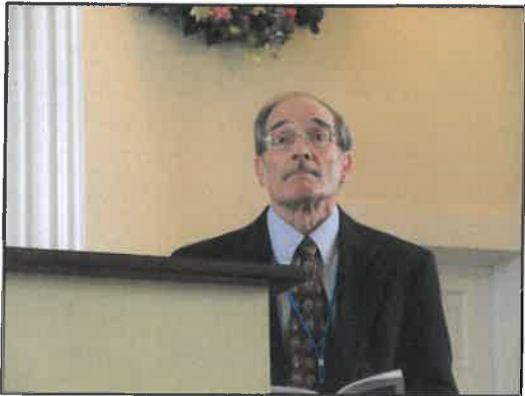
Music by “Jubal” (Charles Dunlevy, Sandra Dize, David Valedez)



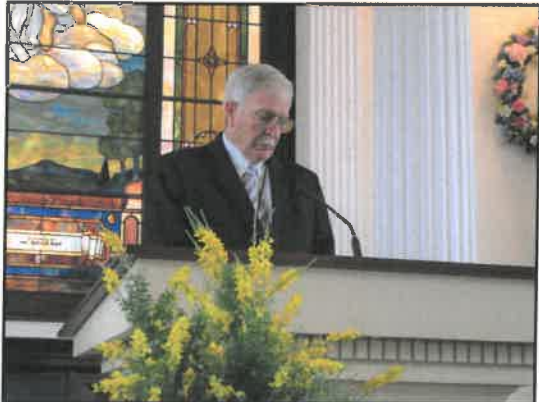
Dr. Ed Jordan, MTBA Moderator (Pastor-Gwynn’s Island BC)



Betty K. Kennon, MTBA Treasurer (Harmony Grove BC)



John Bareford, Jr., MTBA Nominating Comm. (Saluda BC)



Ellis Walton, MTBA Administrative Comm. (Hermitage BC)



Eddie Heath, MTBA DOM, Rev. Rodney Morrison, Pastor Farnham BC



MTBA Banner first displayed at MTBA Fall meeting October 1996. Banner made by Mrs. Lillian Cox (Newington BC) and Mrs. Jean Gwathmey (deceased—Bruington BC). The flag stand was made by Mr. William B. Gwathmey (Bruington BC), made of walnut from Rosemouth, the birthplace of Robert Baylor Semple.



Dr. Barbara Filling, Interim Pastor (Harmony Grove BC)



Mr. Matt Thornhill, Guest speaker

FROM WHITE STONE BC—APRIL 26, 2018:

“After conversations with several of your associational leaders at a church-wide meeting in March and also after conversations between myself and your Director of Missions, our church at its quarterly business meeting on Sunday, April 22 voted unanimously to request membership in your association while also retaining membership in the Rappahannock Baptist Association. We will be glad to follow whatever further procedures that you request.

White Stone Baptist is excited about becoming a part of Mid-Tidewater and serving our Lord together with you. “

In Christ, Jeff Shanaberger, Pastor

Grassroots Seminary Coming to MTBA

Have you ever wanted to take the next step when it comes Bible study? Something that would help you be a better Sunday School teacher, or lead a Bible study in your home, or just increase your own personal understanding of the Bible? Believe it or not, in the very near future, many leaders in the movement of God will not be those who have been professionally trained, but those who have been homegrown.

The vision of Grassroots is to offer local and affordable training for leaders not pursuing a traditional seminary education. Grassroots wants to provide training so that leaders can remain in their current contexts of home, family, work, and vocation. Leaders will now be able to receive training that offers the basic core texts that are used in university and seminary introductory courses.

The MTBA has been working with Dr. Brian Williams for almost a year exploring the possibility of having Grassroots classes offered in the MTBA. Dr. Williams says if there are at least 8 individuals who would like to take this opportunity for advanced Biblical Training, then Grassroots will come to MTBA and begin classes in September sometime after Labor Day.

On May 31, 2018, at 7:00 PM, at Saluda BC, the MTBA will host an informational meeting with Dr. Brian Williams. This meeting will be for the purpose of seeing how much interest there is in bringing a Grassroots Seminary experience to our association. If you would like to learn more about Grassroots Seminary, then you will want to put this date on your calendar. It would be helpful for us if you could let the MTBA office know that you plan to attend so we can make adequate preparation. All you have to do is to call the office: (804-758-4385) or e-mail Barbara: (barbara@midtidewaterbaptist.org) or Eddie: (eddie.heath@bgav.org) or (eddie@midtidewaterbaptist.org).

If you would like to know more about Grassroots Seminary before this gathering, you can go to:
GrassrootsSeminary.org.

Grassroots Seminary Informational Meeting
Thursday, May 31, 2018, Saluda Baptist Church
Call 804-758-4385

Strategy Planning Team Completes Work With MTBA Listening Hubs

The Strategy Planning Team met with 7 different Listening Hubs over a three month period. The purpose was to receive input from each listening hub and that this input would help the Strategy Planning Team present a report to the MTBA that would be more reflective of a wider sector of the MTBA rather than just a handful of people working on a committee.

Each Listening Hub was presented these three questions:

(1.) What would a "Dream MTBA Association" look like? (2.) How can the MTBA do a better job of connecting churches and believers to the MTBA? (3.) What are we missing with our questions?

The Strategy Planning Team was so pleased with the feedback they received. There were some themes that surfaced in every listening hub as well as some exciting new ideas for the future. The information will give the Strategy Planning team lots to work with and think about over the summer. The Listening Hub concept required a lot of work, and a lot of planning, but it was well worth the effort.

The Strategy Planning Team wants to thank each of the 6 churches that hosted the 7 listening Hubs: Hermitage, Newington, Mathews, Saluda, New Hope Fellowship, and Glebe Landing, who were so gracious in making their churches available. We also want to thank Garth Wheeler, Don and Pat McNamee for preparing meals for each of the Listening Hubs as well as Betty "K" Kennon and her team from Harmony Grove who served as meal hosts for each of the Listening Hubs. None of this could have happened in such a productive manner without the help of these ladies and gentlemen serving our association in such a gracious manner.

As the Strategy Planning Team moves forward, we would ask that you continue to pray for this team as they think, plan, and formulate a strategic plan and vision for the MTBA. We have heard it quoted many times that "without a vision, the people will perish", and that would certainly apply to the Mid-Tidewater Baptist Association as well. That is why the work of this team is so important. Thank you for your support.

Dr. John Snow, Chair and Eddie Heath, MTBA DOM

MTBA UPCOMING EVENTS—2018**DATES/LOCATION****EVENTS**

Sunday, May 20 - Sunday, May 27	Associational Missions Week of Prayer (funds for Rise Against Hunger meal packing on Sept. 22)
Thursday, May 31 from 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm at Saluda BC (Saluda)	MTBA "Grassroots" Informational Meeting by Dr. Brian Williams (Pastor of Ivy Mem. BC, Hampton & part time BGAV Field Strategist)
Monday, June 11 from 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm at Petsworth BC (Gloucester)	MTBA Prayer Gathering
Tuesday, June 19 (location & outing to be determined)	MTBA Ministers Conference (outing to be determined)
Monday, June 25 at 7:00 pm at Saluda BC (Saluda)	MTBA Executive Committee meeting
Monday, July 9 from 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm at Macedonia BC (Foster)	MTBA Prayer Gathering
Monday, August 13 from 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm at Mathews BC (Mathews)	MTBA Prayer Gathering
Friday, August 24 from 7:00 pm - 9 pm behind Urbanna Fire-house	MTBA Youth event-ages 6th thru 12th grades
Monday, September 10 from 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm at Mattaponi BC (King & Queen Courthouse)	MTBA Prayer Gathering
Saturday, September 22 (9:30 am - 1:00 pm), Hemitage BC (Church View)	MTBA - Rise Against Hunger meal packing
Monday, September 24 at 7:00 pm at Saluda BC (Saluda)	MTBA Executive Committee meeting
Monday, October 8 from 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm at Glebe Landing BC (Laneview)	MTBA Prayer Gathering
Sunday, October 21 at 3:00 pm at Mathews BC (Hudgins)	MTBA Fall Association meeting
Monday, November 12 from 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm at Spring Hill BC (Cobbs Creek)	MTBA Prayer Gathering
Monday, December 10 from 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm at New Hope Memorial (Shacklefords)	MTBA Prayer Gathering



**MTBA YOUTH MINISTRIES
ACTION GROUP**

Danny Quirin (pictured), BGAV, led a Youth Leadership Training event on March 3 at Harmony Grove BC. Topic was Discipling Digital Teens.

**Youth Event, ages 6th thru 12th grades on Friday,
August 24 from 7 pm to 9 pm:**

"Encounter His Presence, Encounter His Love, Encounter His Power" behind Urbanna Fire House.

Contact Brenda Armistead, Chair (804)-694-7583,
e-mail: bhacrajr@gmail.com.

STAYING IN TOUCH

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

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:**

Rev. Eddie Heath, DOM (Cell: 804-921-3658)
eddie@midtidewaterbaptist.org

Barbara Bareford, Office Administrator
barbara@midtidewaterbaptist.org

4. **Share our Stories: On Facebook Page**

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

5. **Stay Informed: Webpage**

www.midtidewaterbaptist.org

MTBA WMU Annual Spring meeting was held on April 29 at Newington BC (Gloucester), led by Janice Richardson, Director. The Jean Gwathmey Scholarship for worthy and deserving students was presented to Brody and Karson Marshall. An offering was taken for Bland Ministry Center in Bland, VA . WMU is also collecting items for Bland MC. We were humbled by the singing of "People Need the Lord" by Lorelle Perry (Hermitage BC). The inspiring messages were by Paul & Faye Burkwall of Nigeria of their mission work and following the call of God to go unto the uttermost parts of the world spreading His Word. They are now retired and living in Richmond. A heartfelt "thank you" to Newington Baptist Church for hosting our gathering and for the delicious food.



Pictured (standing), some of the WMU Officers. Additional pictures, view MTBA website: (www.midtidewaterbaptist.org), click on "News" tab.