

The **TIDINGS**

Mid-Tidewater Baptist Association

July 2019

Serving Cooperating Sharing



Don't Miss The MTBA Birthday Celebration!



Most everyone, young or old, likes a good birthday celebration. It is usually a time of being with family and friends and enjoying memories, laughter, food, and sometimes even presents. As I get older, I think I appreciate birthdays more. I have a better understanding that life is a gift and not an entitlement. I am so thankful for every additional year of life I have been granted by the grace of God. So when November 15 rolls around I will be 74, and I plan on celebrating another birthday with everything in me.

There is another important birthday that I want to celebrate this year and that is the 60th anniversary of the formation of the Mid-Tidewater Baptist Association (MTBA). The MTBA Program Committee wants the 60th Anniversary to be the center piece of the 2019 Fall Meeting. **We will gather at Newington BC, on Sunday afternoon, October 20th, at 2:45 pm for the MTBA Birthday Celebration.** I want to encourage each of you to mark this date on your calendar and make plans now to be there for this significant day of celebration in our association.

The Program Committee still has a lot of work to do, but there are two tasks that they need the help of each of our 28 churches. **The first task is the creation of a 60th Anniversary MTBA Associational Choir.** The program committee is asking that each of 28 churches send at least 2-3 representatives from their churches to sing in this choir. We think there will be 2-3 practice sessions to rehearse the two anthems they will sing. Please contact the MTBA office by e-mail (barbara@midtidewaterbaptist.org) or by phone (804-758-4385) with the names of those who would like to join our 60th Anniversary Choir.

The second task is to help us collect pictures from our 28 MTBA churches. The Program Committee would like pictures from the past 10 years (2009-2019). Digital pictures would be the easiest to work with, but if you only have hard copy photos then they will work with that as well. We are looking for pictures of significant events that have taken place at your church over the past 10 years. Such things as the calling of a new pastor, mission trips, new buildings or renovations, anything that is special to your church will be special to your MTBA family. The Program Committee would like for each church to take a congregational group picture after church one Sunday morning. Churches used to do that kind of thing all the time, but we don't see it as much now. But the Program Committee is asking everyone of our 28 churches to make the effort. Those pictures will be a special part of the 60th Anniversary Celebration.

On behalf of the MTBA Program Committee, I want to thank you in advance for your help with these two huge tasks. I know it is a lot of work and will take extra effort, but your efforts will play a critical role in carrying out the program committee's plans for this year's fall meeting. I think it is going to be a really special fall meeting. It's not every day that a Baptist Association gets to celebrate a 60th Anniversary. We have so much to be thankful for. God has been so good to the MTBA. We are a blessed people for sure.

Eddie Heath
Director of Missions
MTBA



Pictured: MTBA Ministers and their spouses at the Museum of the Bible in Washington, DC, June 4. Article is by Pastor Ed Jordan, Gwynn's Island BC, on his exploring the Museum of the Bible.

"The Best Book Ever" By Ed Jordan

They say that familiarity breeds contempt, i.e. the more we are around someone or something the more we fail to notice the value of that person or thing. We take many of the people and things that we have become familiar with or taken for granted.

One of the things we take for granted is the existence of the Bible, which God has given, and preserved, so we can understand Him, and understand life, death, salvation and wisdom through its contents. How many Bibles do you have in your home? How many do you open to read? How frequently are they opened to read the words God has given to us in the Bible? Do you merely read or hear the words of God, or do you also put what you read and hear in the Bible into practice in your daily life?

James 1:22-25 (LEB) explains why we should be both hearers and doers of God's word: "But be doers of the message and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves, because if anyone is a hearer of the message and not a doer, this one is like someone staring at his own face in a mirror, for he looks at himself and goes away and immediately forgets what sort of person he was. But the one who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues to do it, not being a forgetful hearer but a doer who acts, this one will be blessed in what he does."

We are to read, or hear, the Bible, then do what God tells us to do in the text. Further we need to continue to do what God tells us to do in the Bible. Believe and keep on believing God as He is active in your life. Hear what God tells you to do, do it, and then continue doing it. Such a person will be blessed.

What brought this subject to mind was my experience yesterday, as my wife and I went to The Museum of the Bible in Washington DC. There were ten of us together as we spent six hours exploring the museum. I must confess that I only went out of curiosity, and wondered what a Museum of the Bible might be like.

After spending six hours there, we were more than impressed. There were six floors of exhibits and displays. There is a children's section where kids can explore the Bible through age-appropriate interactions. All through the museum are interactive screens and displays. The museum was in a class of the best museums I have ever been in, and having lived in Europe for many years, we have seen many great museums. It was very interesting, and very stimulating, rather than boring. The ceiling of the entryway is an exquisite, state of the art image display, which changes every minute or so. There is an Introduction to the Old Testament which is an audiovisual capsulation of the life and times that inspired the Old Testament text. It is the story of God at work through Creation, Abraham, Moses, David, the exiles and prophets.

The New Testament survey covers the life of Jesus and explains the spread of the gospel and growth of the church. There is also an area revealing what it was like to live in Galilee in the time of Christ, as well as artifacts, displays, works of art, and cultural exhibits.

A video tour of Europe reveals various places, events and people who began translating the Bible into Latin, Greek, German and English. There are visual testimonies of actors portraying leaders like Jerome, Tyndale, Luther, and others. Presentations about the invention of the printing press revealed how it was used to spread the message in the Bible all over the world, making it available to people in their own language. A section surveys the influence of the Bible on cultures around the world, and includes the role of the Bible in the colonization and birth of our nation.

All of this is under a theme of how the Bible was preserved and translated in order to impact the world and cultures over the years. It really brought to mind how we so often take for granted the availability of the Bible, the Word of God, that we can use every day.

From high-tech use of lasers and modern lighting to amazing bronze statues, to gigantic tapestries, this museum is awesome. I encourage you to put this on your "to do list." It is really inspiring. May each of you become doers of God's word, and not merely hearers of God's words!



MTBA hosted an Appreciation Luncheon for our Administrative Professionals (pictured) on April 25 at Nick's Spaghetti & Steak House (Shacklefords). Susan McBride & Karen Rackett of BGAV were the special guest presenters speaking on "Teaming Up – Ministry Assistant and Supervisor Working Together to Form the Most Effective Ministry". It was great to meet our Administrative Professionals and for them to meet each other. The fellowship and joy of the day was wonderful, lunch was delicious, and everyone received gifts. Thank you, Administrative Professionals, for your faithful work in your calling as a "Ministry Assistant"!

Meal Packaging Milestone Award:

MTBA was recently awarded the Meal Packaging Milestone Award. "In recognition of your efforts in the fight against hunger 120,816 Meals Packaged with Rise Against Hunger September 22, 2018."

Thank you volunteers who gave of yourself, a true servant heart!



Impact North Carolina

On Sunday, July 14, five of our MTBA youth will head to North Carolina to serve in an Impact Mission Camp sponsored by the Baptist General Association of VA. They will be accompanied by three adult volunteers, Brenda Armistead, who chairs our Youth Ministry Action Team, Betty Kennon from Harmony Grove BC, who is no stranger to Impact Camps, and Melissa Blake from Olivet BC. They will return on Saturday, July 20th. Harmony Grove BC has graciously allowed the team to use their very nice bus to meet their transportation needs.

The MTBA will be able to cover the costs associated with the travel to and from North Carolina, as well as helping with the Impact participation costs for the chaperons and youth. We were able to help in such a generous way because of the dollars given to the 2019 MTBA Associational Offering. Sending teams to help with Disaster Relief efforts in North Carolina was the chosen mission effort this year by our Community Ministries Action Team.

MTBA Associational Love Offering

Your MTBA Action Teams and staff want to thank you for the generous way you have been supporting our MTBA Associational Love Offering. This special offering we receive each year helps us accomplish our mission goals and objectives for that year. This year's mission project is to join with others through the BGAV who are helping with Disaster Relief efforts in Eastern North Carolina. The monies received through this love offering make it possible for the MTBA to help with travel, meals, and other DR costs of those who participate in these relief efforts from the MTBA family.

Since January 2019 we have received \$4,366. There are still churches who have not made their gifts as well as many VBS that plan to give their mission offering to the MTBA Associational Love Offering. As the DOM of MTBA, I am so proud of you, the work you do both in and outside the walls of the church and especially for this most recent act of generosity. God bless you.

Congratulations!



Jonathan Davis, Pastor of Beale Memorial BC, received his Doctorate Degree May 10, 2019. Congratulations on this great accomplishment in your long journey! May you continue to do Kingdom work in all God's wisdom that he has gifted you.

STAY CONNECTED

Mid-Tidewater Baptist Association
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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)
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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

CHURCH NEWS:

Harmony Grove: Middlesex 4-H camp at Harmony Grove - July 14 thru 19. MTBA Youth in North Carolina for rebuild with Impact from July 14 thru 20. VBS – “Giddy Up Junction” kickoff 7/21 with Sunday School picnic at 12 noon. VBS to be held: 7/21 from 2-5 pm, 7/22-7/25 from 6:00 – 8:30 pm, 7/26 at 6:00 pm commencement.

Hermitage: VBS held the week of June 23 with VBS Family Night on June 28. We will honor our HS graduates on Sunday, June 30. The Joy Group continues to enjoy great fellowship and working on community missions. A talent show is in the works, as well as a Sept. Tangier Island Cruise. The Joy Group will meet July 19 at 6 pm at Lowery's Restaurant for dinner. Homecoming: Sept. 8, speaker: Rev Dr. John Upton, Executive Director of the BGAV. Revival continues each evening at 7 pm. Sept. 9: Dr. Dale P. Sealy, Pastor of Salem Baptist Church, Fredericksburg, VA. Sept. 10: Dr. David Washburn, Treasurer BGAV. Sept. 11, Rev. Donald Bowen, retired/former pastor of Cobham Park BC, Warsaw, VA.

Mattaponi: Pastor Edgar Rawles of Zion BC preached the message and Zion's Praise Team provided music June 2. Black members of Mattaponi separated themselves to form Zion Baptist Church in 1866. Two years ago we invited them to our annual Memorial Day services. Zion BC was gracious enough to come as a congregation and returned the favor by inviting Pastor David Anthony, Mattaponi BC, to preach at Zion during revival in July of the same year. This year Mattaponi returned the favor by inviting Pastor Edgar Rawles to fill our pulpit. It was the first time a black man had ever filled the pulpit at Mattaponi Baptist Church. There were a lot of hugs and handshakes all around; even tears. It was a very Spiritual occasion. Considering all the divisive forces at work in this country, it was a blessing to set it all aside to come together in Christian love. Celebrated annual Homecoming-Memorial Day, May 26. There were visitors from as far as Maryland that attended and families with connections to Mattaponi that dated back as far as the 1700's. The day started with a history of our church provided by Tracy Fitzgerald, which dates back to 1600s, followed by guest speaker, Nathan Taylor, from the Virginia Baptist Historical Society. There was a wonderful luncheon in the church social hall with tables full of delicious home-cooked food. Everyone congregated back in the church for a fun-filled afternoon. Valerie Hinant thanked each family for the beautiful flower arrangements sent in memory of their loved ones. Ben Hinant spoke about Memorial Day and recognized the military veterans. Roberta Jones led the recognition of each family represented that day and the church was filled with beautiful music provided by Paul and Bessie Guthrie and Rev. David Medlin. A comment from this day included, “This was the most memorable Homecoming I can remember”. Mark your calendar and be sure to join Mattaponi for next year's celebration on Sunday, May 24th, 2020.

Saluda: Provided lunch for ladies at Riverside Convalescent Home, June 13 & Rev. David Medlen played piano & sung—Thank you David! Derek Koehler and his daughter, Hannah, were baptized by Pastor Eddie Harrow in Whiting Creek on June 23.

Spring Hill: July and August: Community Fellowship Night with VBS. September: celebrations 145 years of continual witness for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Homecoming September 26.