

Update From MTBA Leadership

The times we are living in have required all of us to be flexible, creative, and to acknowledge that we have to make many decisions on the fly. That is true for our families, the workplace, sports, school, and our churches. In MTBA life, many of our leadership teams have had to operate on a month to month basis when it comes to planning and decision making. All of us have been hoping and praying that the summer, or the next month, would be the corner we have been waiting so anxiously to turn. But after six months, we still find ourselves in the midst of our battle with the Covid-19 Virus. We are still asked to wear masks, practice social distancing, and to only gather in groups of less than 100. Our 27 MTBA churches have been challenged to use a variety of ways to provide meaningful worship opportunities in a safe setting. Most of our churches are using some kind of on line platform combined with either drive in or inside worship services. From all the reports Barbara and I have received, things are going amazingly well. Once again, God has demonstrated His goodness in the midst of so much uncertainty.

October is just around the corner and our leadership teams can no longer delay making decisions that need to be made as we approach the end of the MTBA year on October 18, as well as the end of the financial year on December 31. Here is the timeline for some of our leadership teams and what will be presented to the Executive Committee for a vote on September 29, when it meets at Zoar BC.

- August 11: The Program Committee voted unanimously that this year's MTBA Fall Meeting, that was scheduled to be held on October 18 at Poroporone BC, be canceled. This motion will be presented to the Executive Committee on September 29 for their approval.
- August 26: The Nominating Committee will meet to decide what might be the best way for staffing our leadership teams and MTBA officer positions as we prepare for 2020-2021. They will present their recommendations to the Executive Committee on September 29.
- September 9: The Finance Committee will meet to prepare a MTBA Budget for 2021. Their recommendations will be presented to the Executive Committee on September 29.
- September 22: MTBA Administrative Committee will meet.
- September 29: MTBA Executive Committee will meet at Zoar BC at 7:00 P.M. for the purpose of voting on motions from the Program Committee, Nominating Committee, and Finance Committee. Zoar has offered their sanctuary for this meeting in order that we can easily practice social distancing by members of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee is made up of the pastor and one elected MTBA Representative from each church. We are planning to make this meeting available by zoom for those who would like to observe the meeting.

Eddie

GRASSROOTS

Ministry Training for Everyday Disciples of Jesus

Fall 2020

The Story of the Bible (30-week course)

God's story of redemption and reconciliation is the theme of the Bible. However, the Bible does not present this story in one continuous narrative from beginning to end. Many parts of the Bible focus on such things as poetry, psalm, wisdom, and prophecy. The Story will focus on the historical narrative of the Bible in chronological order so that you will be able to see the full and breath-taking panorama of God's mission in the world. Once you see the entire story, the Bible will come to life in new and fresh ways.

*Monday nights, 6:30 – 8:00pm,
Sept. 14 – Dec. 14, 2020 / January 11 – May 3, 2021*

*Course will be taught via Zoom
Tuition: \$300*

Instructor: Dr. Bruce Powers (Urbanna BC)

Disability and the Church:

The Missing Marginalized Minority (5 weeks)

There are many people in our community that feel they cannot attend church because of challenges they see but we don't. They are the 26% of the population that have or care for someone with a disability. Right or wrong, their perception is real, and it should impact how we approach ministry. We must be intentional in our discipleship of people and families dealing with a disability. To do so, you will need tools. This course is an introduction that will help equip you to move your church from *exclusion* of people and families with disability to *belonging*. Each participant will gain an understanding of who we are talking about, receive tools to support discipleship efforts, and a Scripture perspective to stand firm on the need for change.

*Thursday nights, 6:00 – 8:00pm
Sept. 28 – Oct. 26 Or Friday mornings, 10 – 12pm
Oct. 2 – Oct. 30*

*Course will be taught via Zoom
Tuition: \$75*

Instructor: Michelle Munger

Website: Grassrootsseminary.com

Registration: Each course must have at least 10 students. Contact **Dr. Brian Williams**, for registration or further information at brian.williams@bgav.org or (757) 254 – 6538.

**St. Paul Baptist Church
Jamaica, VA
Est. 1881
P.O. Box 171
Church View, VA 23032**

Rev. Kenneth G. Dunn, Pastor

Sis. Donna Morris, Clerk

July 9, 2020

Mid-Tidewater Baptist Assoc.

Rev. Eddie Heath

P.O. Box 302

Saluda, VA 23149

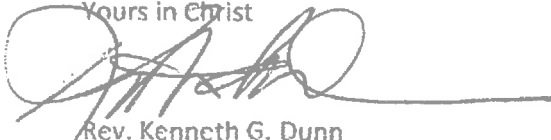
Dear friends:

On Saturday, November 17, 2018, St. Paul Baptist Church experienced a devastating fire, destroying the entire Church building. The 132 year old structure stood as a testament of the faith, love, and hope that the people of Jamaica, VA and surrounding counties have worked so very hard to preserve over many decades. We find comfort in knowing that Christ dwells in our hearts and not in a building.

The leadership and congregation of St. Paul Baptist Church remain faithful in God's plan for our Church. We have found a temporary place of worship at a sister Church in Saluda, VA, and continue to praise our God for the great things He has done and will do for us. Our Church family has felt all the prayers, thoughts, and love so many have shown to us over the past months. As we move into the rebuilding phase, we are thankful that God has brought us so many friends in Christ who have felt this tragedy in their hearts with us.

On behalf of myself, Rev. Kenneth G. Dunn, and the St. Paul Baptist Church family, we thank you for your generous donation of the two Communion sets. They are beautiful and will greatly assist us in showing the Lord's love until He comes.

Yours in Christ

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'K. G. Dunn', written over a horizontal line.

Rev. Kenneth G. Dunn

Introducing Practical Theology for Ministry

An introduction to Theology and Theological Studies for every-day followers of Christ and lay leaders of the Mid-Tidewater and Northern Neck churches. Sponsored by the Mid-Tidewater Baptist Association and the Leland Center for Theological Studies.

What do Doug Davis, Edward Harrow, Sr., Edward Harrow, Jr., Barbara Filling, Richard Croxton, Brenda Armistead, Dan Grantham, and Walter Harrow all have in common? They were all raised in Mid-Tidewater churches, and they all serve or served Mid-Tidewater churches!



You may not know it, but there is an growing crisis of theology in our churches. Gone are the days when we could depend on the denomination to educate enough pastors and other ministers to supply the church with the leaders we need. Hardly a month goes by that one of our local churches doesn't lose its pastor or another pillar of the church who provided the biblical and spiritual stability every congregation needs. Long gone are the days of Training Union and Leadership Development that once were the hallmark of Baptists. The providers of theological content among worship attenders ranges from Joel Osteen to Charles Stanley. The only hope for the future of many rural congregations is the development of home-grown leaders from our community who will stay in our community to serve and minister. Is that you or someone you know?

You are invited to join me on a ten-week journey starting the week of October 5 to explore Practical Theology for Ministry. Learn why every Deacon, Sunday School teacher, and church officer should be able to answer the question: "what they believe and why?" Contact me or the MTBA office to learn more.

Pastor John Snow
Zoar Baptist Church
E-mail: Pastor.zoar@va.metrocast.net

MTBA PASTORS' LEADERSHIP CHANGES

Beech Grove BC: called **Dr. Richard Croxton** as their Pastor, December 2019.

St. Stephens BC: called **Rev. Ken Kessler** as their Interim Pastor, January 2020

Spring Hill BC: called **Rev. Ross Davis** as their Pastor, March 2020

Hermitage BC: called **Rev. Joe McKnight** as their Pastor, August 2020

Dr. Jonathan Davis, Pastor of **Beale Memorial BC,** through much prayer and obedience to God's calling, is moving his family back to Texas. His last day with Beale is September 4. We pray for God's steadfast hand as he and his family begin their journey. Thank you, Pastor Jonathan, for your passion of laboring in God's work, sharing God's word and His love, and continuing ministry in Texas.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Brenda Armistead (Harmony Grove BC) has completed:

"Youth Ministry Certification" (October 2018)

"Children's Ministry Certification" (January 2020)

"Family Ministry Certification" (June 2020)

Brenda was presented certificates by BGAV (Baptist General Association of VA).

She is MTBA's Clerk and Chair of Youth Ministry Action Group. Brenda is well equipped as she begins her new journey with Newington BC as their Youth Leader of COR3 Youth Ministry on Sunday, August 30.

Well Done, Brenda!

Thank you MTBA!

While we have been social distancing, washing hands often, wearing face masks, and being aware of coronavirus possibly around us, one of our MTBA members had an emergency medical condition that required a ramp added to his home. When MTBA received the call, we immediately reached out to our Community Ministries Chair, Jim Burns. The ramp requirements were measured, materials purchased, and a team of 12 people from several MTBA churches built the ramp pictured. Thank you, Jim Burns, for leading this project! **Thank you MTBA** for your faithful giving to the Association Week of Prayer Offering in which 100% of the funds support these projects.



Thank You For Your Faithfulness and Generosity



We don't usually include the Treasurer's Report in our MTBA Newsletters, but we wanted to do so in this issue. Six months ago, when we first started learning about the Covid-19 virus, no one really knew what to expect. One of the great concerns all across VA Baptist life, was how would our churches do financially. Most of us began preparing for the worst. But thanks be to God and to you, for the most part, our churches have exceeded expectations. As a result, the giving to the MTBA has been better than what we were anticipating. Our MTBA churches have been faithful and generous to the mission and ministry that we undertake together. Our churches have adjusted, been creative, continued to spread the gospel message, and made it possible for the MTBA to continue to Share, Cooperate, and Serve. May God continue to bless each and every one of you as you continue to be faithful to the calling God has placed on your lives and your churches.

Eddie Heath (Director of Missions), Barbara Bareford (Office Administrator),
Betty Kennon (MTBA Treasurer)

MTBA TREASURER'S REPORT, July 31, 2020

CHECKING BALANCE	\$ 28,672.96
PAYROLL LIABILITIES	190.74
DESIGNATED FUNDS	13,997.15
Week of Prayer	12,241.53
Impact Virginia	1,555.62
YEC 2016	100.00 (Youth Encounter for Christ)
Grassroots 2 Class	- 0 -
Disaster Relief-NC	100.00
WORKING FUNDS	<hr/> \$ 14,485.07

Grant funds: \$11,900.00 less \$11,770.78 payroll = \$129.11 left

Working Funds: \$14,485.07

SAVINGS ACCOUNTS:

Virginia Baptist Foundation	\$35,815. (Certificates)
Virginia Baptist Foundation	\$12,503. (Designated)
Virginia Baptist Foundation	\$12,165. (Reserve)
Ending Balance 07/31/2020	\$60,484.

MTBA Pastors Conference

September 15, 10:30 AM-12:30

Camp Piankatank

Bring your own lunch, a comfortable chair, and we will provide the drinks.

FACE MASKS NEEDED; PLEASE HELP!

Eastern Shore still needs masks for men. Large sizes and darker colors.

Contact [Annette Foster Greenwood](#), WMUVA Trustee, WMU Leader Urbanna BC
(e-mail: agreenwood4@verizon.net) (c: 804-824-4073) for more information.

Standing Rock does not need masks at this time.



SHARING

If your church has a committee meeting and is unable to meet in person, MTBA has a **zoom** account and is available to your church. Please contact MTBA office for details.

STAY CONNECTED

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
6. **Read The Tidings:** your MTBA Newsletter