



I Am Ready For This To Be Over!

If I heard it once, I must have heard it at least fifty times. "I am ready for this to be over." Of course the "this" can be any number of things. The "Big Three" are the 2020 Election, Covid-19 Virus, and the year 2020. All three have taken their toll on our lives this year. And here we are with just a couple of months left in 2020 and there are still way more questions than answers.

The 2020 Election is over and most people I talk with on both sides of the election are glad that its over. However, we are still dealing with Covid 19, and who knows what the last two months of 2020 have in store for us. We are all so ready for all of this to be over and get on with a new chapter. Let's turn the page, start a new chapter, begin afresh, and get on with the next things. I know people who are emotionally waiting for 2021, so this will all be over. That would be nice, but there is nothing magical about 2021 that will take all of this away. It is a real possibility that 2021 will not be much different from 2020.

I believe that scripture calls us to focus on the journey as much as the destination. Get the most out of every day. Remember that every day is a day that "God has made and we are to rejoice and be glad in it". Let's leave the future to God, and give our very best to living every day in a way that is pleasing to God and a blessing to others.

Eddie



Dear MTBA Family,

As many of you have heard by now, Kathy's son and Noah and Aaron's father died unexpectedly on November 5th. It was a shock and heart breaking experience for all of us.

We want to thank all of our MTBA family for your words of encouragement, but most especially for your prayers. It was such a source of comfort and strength during a very difficult week.

The boys are back to their school routine, I am back at work in Saluda, and Kathy is holding down the home base, as we try to return to our normal activities. That will be a much easier task because of the love we feel from you, our MTBA Family.

Eddie, Kathy, Noah, and Aaron

MID-TIDEWATER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION OF VA

2020 HISTORIAN'S REPORT

It will be impossible for historians to reflect on the year of 2020 without emphasizing the effect of the coronavirus pandemic on society worldwide.

The Mid-Tidewater Baptist Association began the year of 2020 as any other year; by making plans for ministry projects, mission projects, and semi-annual meetings. Little did we know that, within three months, our churches would be closed and our travel and interaction with others severely restricted. How would the churches of the Mid-Tidewater Baptist Association respond and react to such circumstances?

Shortly after Paul and Silas began their ministry in the city of Philippi, they were arrested, beaten, and imprisoned in the most secure area of the prison with their feet fastened in stocks. Did these adverse circumstances keep Paul and Silas from ministering to the people of Philippi? No, Paul and Silas simply adapted their ministry. Rather than preaching and teaching in a place of prayer, they prayed and sang hymns to their fellow inmates in the prison. Their ministry in Philippi was not curtailed, although it may have been directed to an audience they were not expecting.

In a similar fashion, the churches of the Mid-Tidewater Baptist Association were forced to adapt their forms of worship because of the circumstances relating to the pandemic. Within a short time, because in-house worship services were not allowed, pastors began streaming sermons online on Sunday mornings. Soon after, drive in worship services began to develop. Sermons and music were transmitted over low-wattage FM transmitters to worshippers in their vehicles. As time passed and restrictions were eased, worshippers at these drive in services would enjoy the services in lawn chairs situated around the parking areas with the sermons broadcast over FM radio and loud speakers. The response to these unorthodox worship services was unexpectedly overwhelming. Many enjoyed the casual atmosphere of these services and some brought the family pet in the vehicle with them. As the months have passed, some churches have chosen to resume services in the church sanctuary, and some have continued with drive in services. Regardless of the location of the worship service, it appears that most churches will continue to stream their services and post them on social media.

Due to the pandemic, for the first time in its 60 year history, the Association did not hold either the Spring or Fall semi-annual meetings. However, the pandemic did not stop the Mid-Tidewater Baptist Association from its mission of Serving, Sharing, and Cooperating. Because of the generosity of the members of the Association churches, the Mid-Tidewater Baptist Association was able to continue to provide services as usual. The Finance Committee met and established a budget (for 2021) and the Nominating Committee brought a slate of candidates to serve on committees and action groups (for October 2020 – October 2021). A communion set was ordered, received, and given to St. Paul Baptist Church in Middlesex County, their church building having been destroyed by fire.

The Community Ministries Action Group built a ramp in July 2020 at a Middlesex County residence for a stroke victim and plans for other ramps continue to develop.



2020 HISTORIAN'S REPORT

(continued)

An Ordination Council met during July and recommended Stephen Rountree for ordination. An Ordination Service was held for Rev. Rountree at Mattaponi Baptist Church who called him to be their pastor on August 30. Several association churches called pastors during the year of 2020. Rev. Ken Kessler was called as Interim Pastor at St. Stephens BC in January. Spring Hill BC called Rev. Ross Davis in March. Hermitage BC called Rev. Joe McKnight in September, and Beale Memorial BC called Rev. Nita May as Interim Pastor in September.

Brenda Armistead, MTBA Clerk and Chair of the Youth Ministry Action Group, was called to be their Youth Leader of COR3 Youth Ministry for Newington BC in August.

With regret the MTBA accepted a letter in July from Petsworth BC requesting to no longer be affiliated with the Association.

In October and November, Dr. John Snow, Pastor of Zoar BC, taught a course on "Practical Theology for Ministry" at Hermitage BC. This course was directed for persons who may be called to pastor, interim ministry, or pulpit supply and for congregational leaders or Christians who want to deepen their faith and expand their Biblical foundation.

As the year of 2020 nears its end, we look forward to the promise of a vaccine which will end this pandemic. Regardless of our form of worship, be it in house services or drive in services, we should be thankful that we still have the opportunity to worship.

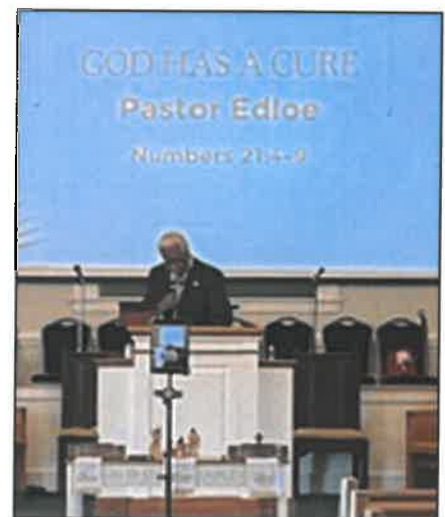
Some time after leaving the city of Philippi, Paul wrote a letter to the church located there. In his letter Paul tells the Philippians: "I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content. I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound; in any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and want. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Have we learned to be content in all circumstances, knowing that we also can do all things through Christ who strengthens us?

John M. Bareford, Jr.

MTBA Historian

(additional pictures of various worship styles follow)



New Hope Fellowship, Rev. Edloe delivering a message by Live Stream (online).

Worship and Godly missions in the midst of Covid-19



Beale Mem. BC fellowship under pavillon



Beech Grove BC drive in



Farnham BC praise singers at drive in



Glebe Landing BC drive in



Gwynn's Island BC drive in from gazebo



Harmony Grove BC Operation Christmas Child



Hermitage BC drive in



Bruington BC Youth group event, Samaritan's purse Christmas boxes



Lower King & Queen BC "Helping the Homeless" drive thru food distribution

Mathews Baptist Church Ministries

Youth Nursing Home Ministry

Aug. 15 from 6 PM-8PM
RAIN or SHINE!!!!

FREE MEALS

Mathews BC ministries



Mattaponi BC Ordination lunch/fellowship for Rev. Stephen Rountree



New Hope Fellowship Operation Christmas Child shoe packing



New Hope Memorial BC drive in



Newington BC OCC



Olivet BC "Helping The Homeless" food distribution



Poroporone BC revival



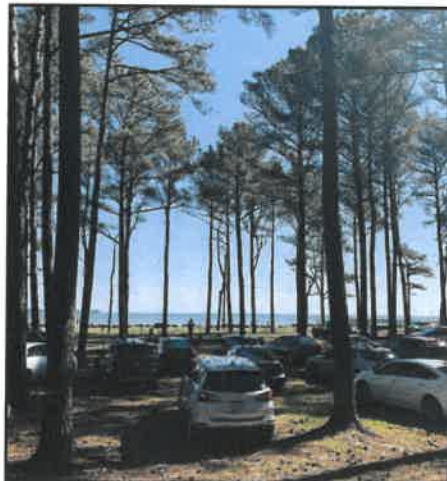
Saluda BC drive in



Urbanna BC campground worship



White Stone BC worship on yard of Friendship House



Zoar BC worship at the beach



Macedonia BC snack packing

MTBA Committees and Action Groups

At the MTBA Executive Committee meeting of September 29, the Nominating Committee's recommendation that MTBA Officers and members of Committees and Action Groups serve an additional year was approved (see below list). This was due to the coronavirus pandemic this year and that many of the committees and action groups were unable to come together.

COMMITTEES:

ADMINISTRATIVE	NAME	CHURCH
	Garth Wheeler, Chair	Urbanna
	Ben Borden	Beech Grove
	Lillian Cox	Newington
	Joe Allen	Mathews
	Donald Hornsby	New Hope Memorial
	Ann Revere	White Stone

FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP	NAME	CHURCH
	Leona Brownley, Chair	Harmony Grove
	Rev. David Medlen	Lower K&Q & Olivet
	Mary Ann Seward	Poroporone
	Brad Anderson	Saluda
	Rev. Edward Harrow, Sr.	Harmony Grove
	Anita Ottarson	Beulah
	Betty Kennon, Treasurer (ex-officio)	Harmony Grove

NOMINATING *	NAME	CHURCH
	Annette Greenwood, Chair	Urbanna
* (recommendation by	Irene Longest	Lower K&Q
Administrative Comm.	Pearl Sadler	Spring Hill
for Nominating Comm.	Rev. David Medlen	Lower K&Q & Olivet
slate (approved Sept. 29)	Ellis Walton	Hermitage
	Tammy Faulkner	Macedonia

PROGRAM	NAME	CHURCH
	Dr. John Snow, Chair	Zoar
	Sue Smith	Spring Hill
	Steve Ransone	Hermitage
	Jennifer Lucas	Saluda
	Susan Brooks	Glebe Landing
	Eniko Jordan	Gwynn's Island

STRATEGY PLANS	NAME	CHURCH
	Annette Greenwood	Urbanna
	Jim Burns	Poroporone
	Bryan Taliaferro	Beale
	Jim Burns, Chair, Comm. Min.	Poroporone
	Dallas Ammons, Chair, Intercessory Prayer	Olivet
	Rev. Terry Morrison, Chair, Missions & Evangelism	Lower K&Q & Olivet
	Brenda Armistead, Chair, Youth Ministries	Newington

ACTION GROUPS:

COMMUNITY MINISTRIES	Jim Burns, Chair	
	Betty Kennon	Poroporone
	Gail Smith	Harmony Grove
	Lawrence Lewis	First BC of Harmony Village
	Shirley Williams	Farnham
	Gene Nuttall	Spring Hill
	Tom Brooks	Olivet
	Rev. Joe McKnight	Hermitage
	Pat Emery	Hermitage
	Dr. Leonard Edloe	Glebe Landing
	Tee Mallon (WMU rep.)	New Hope Fellowship
		Mathews

INTERCESSORY PRAYER	Dallas Ammons, Chair	
	Rev. Bill Friend	Olivet
	John Northstein	Petsworth
	Roy Smith	Petsworth
	Gayle Gamble	Spring Hill
	Mary Jo Cumbia	Urbanna
	Dorothy Milby (WMU rep.)	Glebe Landing
		Poroporone

MISSIONS & EVANGELISM	Rev. Terry Morrison, Chair	
	Rev. Rodney Morrison	Lower K&Q & Olivet
	Alice Kemp	Farnham
	Susan Hockett	St. Stephens
	Joyce Smith	Saluda
	Sue Shafer (WMU rep.)	Zoar
		Hermitage

YOUTH MINISTRIES	Brenda Armistead, Chair	
	Callie Jo Revere	Newington
	Dana Brown	Harmony Grove
	Marcus Vaughan	Spring Hill
	Laura Ripley	Beale
	Terry Cooke (WMU rep.)	Macedonia
		New Hope Memorial



Your MTBA Staff wants to wish all of our MTBA Families a blessed and Happy Thanksgiving. We thank God for the privilege of serving you and the Lord in this wonderful association.

Eddie and Barbara



Welcome Rev. Nita May to MTBA!

Beale Memorial BC called Rev. Nita May as their Interim Pastor, September 2020.



Congratulations to **Robin Carey (Poroporone BC)** on the completion of the Youth Ministry Certification (12/2019) and Family Ministry Certification (7/2020)! Robin was presented with her BGAV Certificates by Pastor Doug Davis.

Robin is Poroporone's Youth & Children's Coordinator. She also teaches Poroporone's Youth Sunday School class, leads Children's Time during Worship every 3rd Sunday as "Professor Carey" and is the Children's Time Coordinator.

Congratulations Robin!

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)
Barbara Bareford, Office Administrator

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

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