

The **TIDINGS**

Mid-Tidewater Baptist Association

January 2021

Serving Cooperating Sharing



"Goodbye 2020, Hello 2021"



I don't know of anyone who is not glad to see the arrival of 2021. 2020 has been like no other year that any of us have had to live through. We have dealt with a worldwide COVID-19 virus, civil unrest in the streets, dramatic changes to our normal routines, a national election, and rising tensions that are the result of a contested presidential election that brought 2020 to a disappointing end with even more fighting and bickering.

Most of us began 2021 with hearts full of hope for 2021. We were most hopeful that a COVID-19 vaccine would soon be available for all of us, and the vaccine would lead to the end of this deadly virus. On January 6 our hopes took a major punch to the gut when we saw live pictures of an attempted take over of our US Capital Building in Washington D.C. Any hope we had that 2021 was going to be different and better than 2020, seemed to fly right out the proverbial window. We are so divided, family members against family members, friends against friends, our institutions, our politicians, even many of our churches. It is disappointing.

I often get asked, "What do you think about all the stuff that is going on?" I find myself thinking about that question a lot, when I drive home in the afternoons. "What do I think?"

More than anytime in my lifetime, America needs us now. That is what I think. God has called us to be Christ followers. We are to be light where there is darkness. We are called to be salt to those places that have become bitter. Not only are we commanded to love one another, but we are also challenged to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us. Our branding is not an eye for an eye, or a tooth for a tooth. Christ followers are called to turn the other cheek even when we are slapped across the face. Jesus said that his followers would inherit the earth as a result of their meekness. He also said that when we are merciful, we will be blessed and will be shown mercy. And if that was not enough, Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the **"children of God."**

America doesn't need another church meeting or another program. Right now it doesn't need our judgement or even another sermon. Our country needs us, the followers of Christ, the children of God, to stand up and live boldly the life we were called to live. For us to live and love in such a way that **"Peace on earth and goodwill to men"** would triumph over hatred, divisions, darkness, and death. I challenge each of us to listen closely to God's call on us. I know He must be calling because Christ followers are so badly needed as we begin 2021.

Eddie

Petsworth Baptist Church Sends Request to the MTBA

Many of you have asked about the status of Petsworth Baptist Church's relationship with the Mid-Tidewater Baptist Association. On July 8, 2020, Eddie and Barbara received this very cordial e-mail from Pastor John Pouchot. We have taken the necessary steps to honor the church's request.

Eddie,

I wanted to inform you and Barbara that at our last Member's Meeting in June we voted to dissociate completely with the MTBA. We chose to do so for the following two main reasons:

1. Our present and committed involvement to the SBCV and our lack of involvement and commitment to the BGAV and the MTBA.
2. We were members in name only with the MTBA - we have not provided any financial support for several decades from a budgeted standpoint and we have not been involved in the yearly activities and events of the MTBA.

With this in mind - please remove our name from the MTBA membership as well as any other materials (promotional etc.) that would have Petsworth Baptist Church's name on it. We are grateful for the partnership that Petsworth has had with the MTBA over the years and pray that the Lord will continue to direct and lead you.

Thanks for your attention to this matter.--

John Pouchot, Senior Pastor

Petsworth Church

Love God - Love People

2471 Hickory Fork Road

Gloucester, Va 23061

804-693-3024

www.petsworthchurch.org



Looking Ahead

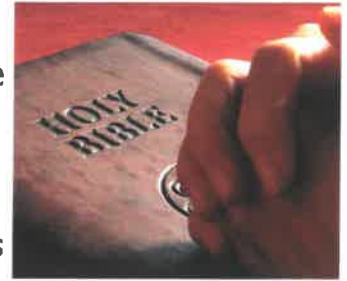
2021

Our MTBA ministry teams, committees, and staff have been thinking about 2021 for some time. But thinking about and planning for 2021 is one of the most challenging things we have ever had to deal with as leaders of Christian ministries. It is more guessing than planning. But to the best of our ability to look into a very uncertain future, here is what we are seeing for our MTBA Family:

- As long as Covid-19 cases are on the rise, we will not be promoting any in person gatherings.
- At this point in time, a Spring Meeting does not seem likely.
- Optimistically, we are *hoping* for an in person gathering of our MTBA Fall Meeting.
- We are *praying* that by Easter most of our MTBA churches will be able to gather for Easter Celebrations.
- We are *confident* that the Lord will be with us and guiding us regardless of how 2021 unfolds.

MTBA INTERCESSORY PRAYER TEAM

For the January 11 monthly Prayer Gathering, MTBA made a decision not to gather in person due to the high number of covid-19 cases. Instead, the MTBA Intercessory Prayer Team chose to "meet" via free conference call. According to Dallas Ammons, Intercessory Prayer Chair, "it was a powerful call, sharing scripture, prayer, personal requests and testimonies". The next monthly Prayer Gathering is on February 8, and the team will "meet" on the same format. If you would like to share a prayer request or praise, please e-mail to Dallas Ammons, (mssdallas46_64@yahoo.com). Thank you, Dallas, for leading MTBA in prayer.



"If My people, which are called by My name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." II Chronicles 7:14

The **BGAV Committee on Boards and Committees** is responsible for enlisting capable people to serve on the various committees, (Christian Life, Memorial, Program, Religious Liberty, Resolutions, and Scholarship), as well as people to serve on boards and agencies that relate to the Baptist General Association of Virginia. Please help to identify gifted individuals to serve in the coming year by sharing the names of those VA Baptists, both laypersons and ministers, whom you believe have the qualifications and commitment to advance the Redeemer's Kingdom. These persons, after approval by BGAV Committee on Boards and Committees, are voted on at BGAV Annual Gathering in November and begin serving for a term of three (3) years. BGAV Nomination form is on page 4 for you to complete and submit by April 1 to Tim Madison (contact info on form).

You will be blessed to serve with Christian brothers and sisters who love the Lord. If you have questions, contact Barbara Bareford (barbara@midtidewaterbaptist.org) or phone 804-758-4385.

ZOOM

Due to the increased number of covid cases and deaths, we continue to find creative ways not to gather in person for meetings, but still do God's work. **MTBA has a zoom account available to our churches at no cost.** One hundred (100) participants are allowed with a time limit of 24 hours. The Zoom meeting can be used with your computer/laptop, smart phone, or land line phone. Contact MTBA office, and we can schedule your meeting.



AN OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE

Nominee Recommendation Sheet— Committee on Boards and Committees

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: (Preferred) _____

E-mail: _____

Gender: Male Female Check One: Layperson Minister

Occupation: _____

Holds Church Membership in: _____

Church Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Association: _____

Major Activities in Church or District Association: _____

Prior Service on Boards and Committees of General Association: _____

Your specific reason for recommending this person: _____

Check the board or standing committee on which you believe this person could best serve. Check no more than two.

Standing Committees

- Christian Life Memorial Program Religious Liberty Resolutions Scholarship

Boards of Trustees

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Averett University | <input type="checkbox"/> GraceInside (Virginia's Prison Chaplain Service) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baptist Extension Board, Inc. | <input type="checkbox"/> Fork Union Military Academy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty | <input type="checkbox"/> Hargrave Military Academy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baptist Ministers' Relief Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> HopeTree Family Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baptist News Global | <input type="checkbox"/> John Leland Center for Theological Studies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bluefield College | <input type="checkbox"/> LifeSpire of Virginia, Inc. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Center for Baptist Heritage & Studies | <input type="checkbox"/> Oak Hill Academy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Good Faith Media | <input type="checkbox"/> Virginia Baptist Foundation, Inc. |

Name of person making recommendation: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: (Preferred) _____

E-mail: _____

Please follow these guidelines when making your recommendations:

- Nominees must be members of BGAV churches.
- Give as much information as possible on nominees.
- Secure nominee's permission before sending in name.
- **Submit by April 1.**
- Remember: Recommendation does not ensure appointment and only those recommended will be notified.

Recommendations may be submitted to:

Committee on Boards and Committees
Tim Madison, Chair
2828 Emerywood Parkway
Henrico, VA 23294

- Fax: 804.915.2444

For more information, contact Marilee White at:

- Telephone: 800.255.2428 or 804.915.5000, ext. 1201
- E-mail: marilee.white@bgav.org

COMMUNITY MINISTRIES ACTION GROUP - RAMPS' UPDATE

A big thank you to Jim Burns, Chair of Community Ministries Action Group, and his workers for building two additional ramps in November. A third ramp (temporary) was modified and installed at a home in December. All of these home owners have mobility problems. It was a blessing that Jim and his team made their time and talents available to provide these ramps. Thank you to New Hope Memorial BC for providing lunch for a team who built a ramp! There are additional requests for ramps to be built. If you or others can assist, contact Jim Burns, c: 757-876-3114 or e-mail: jburns@kingandqueenco.net.




Thank You

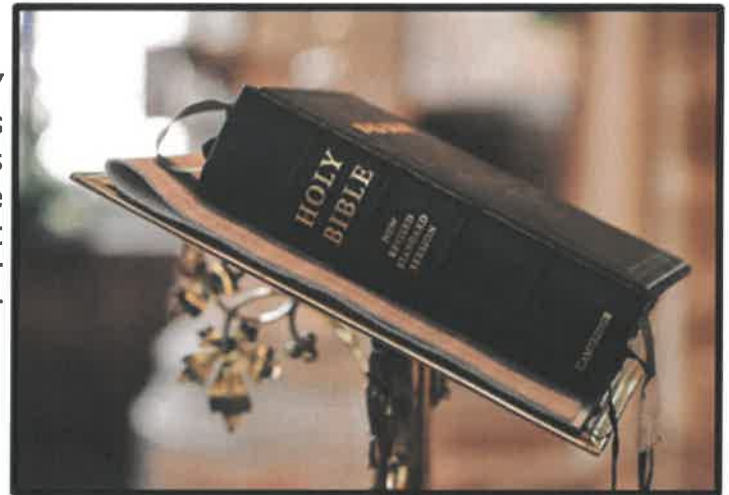
Note from the Homeowner:

"Thank the MTBA so much for what they did for me. The deck and ramp is awesome. I have enjoyed using it. Thank all you again. God bless all."

REFLECTIONS OF FAITH

Lessons on faith can come from unexpected places. "Bear" was a 110 pound black Labrador retriever. Bear's large metal water bowl was located in a corner of the kitchen. Whenever it was empty, he wouldn't bark or paw at it. Instead he would lie down quietly beside it and wait. Sometimes he would have to wait for some time, but Bear had learned to trust that his master would eventually walk into the room, see him there, and provide what he needed. His simple faith in his master reminds us of our need to place our trust in God. Hebrews 11 tells us that "faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see". The foundation of this confidence and assurance is God Himself who "rewards those who earnestly seek Him". God is faithful to keep His promises to all who believe and come to Him through Jesus.

Sometimes having faith in "what we do not see" isn't easy. But we can rest in God's goodness and His loving character, trusting that His wisdom is perfect in all things, even when we have to wait. He is always faithful to do what He says, to save us from our sin and meet our deepest needs. "My God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus." Philipians 4:19



John M. Bareford, Jr.

MTBA Historian

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)
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