

The **TIDINGS**

Mid-Tidewater Baptist Association

March 2021

Serving Cooperating Sharing



Easter

Always A Reason For Celebration!

"**They Can't Take That Away from Me**" is a 1937 popular song with music by George Gershwin and lyrics by Ira Gershwin. It was introduced by Fred Astaire in the 1937 film Shall We Dance and gained huge success. Many artists have performed this love song since 1937 because of its great music and lyrics.

I was thinking about what I wanted to write as we are preparing for Easter 2021, when this song title came to mind. It has been a long and difficult road since Easter 2020. Most of our churches were not able to gather to celebrate Easter in 2020. Since then, we have lost loved ones to COVID 19, have been asked to not gather in church, or with our families during the holidays, and most everyone now is behind a mask no matter where they go. We have missed sporting events, weddings, graduations, memorial services, and most of our children and grandchildren still have not returned to their classrooms. It feels like for every one day of sunshine, there has been five days of either snow, rain, or cloud cover to block out the sun.

With all of this and much more in mind, we are still going to Celebrate Easter again this year. Easter has always been a reason to Celebrate for the Christian Faith Community for over 2,000 years, and this year is not going to be any different. Not tribulations, or distress, or persecutions, or famine, or peril, not even a year of COVID-19, "**can take this away from us!**" On April 4 some of us will gather at sunrise, some will gather in church parking lots, some will gather on line, and many will gather in their community churches all over the world to celebrate Easter. We will gather to worship the risen Christ and celebrate His empty tomb. We do this for the simple reason that the Easter story is the single most important event in human history. This is what the Apostle Paul has to say about this event, "**For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance; that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,**" 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

My desire for all our MTBA family is that this Easter will be one of the most special days for all of us. May all of our voices find spaces and opportunities for expressions of praise and adoration to our living Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Eddie Heath

Director of Missions, Mid-Tidewater Baptist Association



The Beat Goes On

We are still amazed at how many ramps we were able to provide to families even in the midst of all the challenges that came with COVID 19. Jim Burns and his committee has responded in a magnificent way to the families who reached out for help. But Ramping Up has expanded beyond the Community Ministries Action Team.

In early February the MTBA office received a call to say that one of our pastors was in serious need of a ramp for his wife and they needed it yesterday. Gene and Wayne Nuttall asked if we would help. These two men said they could supply all of the labor and build the ramp in two days if MTBA could help with the cost. It was a perfect arrangement. Gene and Wayne had the skills, and MTBA had the funds. Thanks, Gene and Wayne, for keeping the beat of hammers going in Mid-Tidewater.

One More Time

Hopefully this will be the last time in 2021 that we have to say that we are not having one of our regular scheduled meetings. We have come a long way, and we can see some light at the end of the tunnel. Even with that good news, we are aware that many of our MTBA families are not comfortable gathering in large groups, and many more have not even received their COVID Vaccinations yet. Therefore, your MTBA leadership has decided not to have a MTBA Spring Meeting, and there will be no MTBA Executive Meeting on Monday, March 29.

But we can guarantee you that our 27 MTBA churches are going to celebrate Easter, and we are very optimistic about having a Fall MTBA Gathering. In the meantime stay safe, be thankful, and let the light and love of Jesus shine through you in everything you do.

MTBA Intercessory Prayer Action Group continues to “meet” by conference call on the second Monday night monthly at 7 pm to lift our prayers and praises to our Heavenly Father. It is a time when we approach Him with humility, boldness, and confidence. All good and perfect things come from our Lord, for You are our provider of all. E-mail your prayer requests and praises to:

Dallas Ammons, Chair: mssdallas46_64@yahoo.com.

“Then He returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. “Couldn’t you men keep watch with me for one hour?” He asked Peter. Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.” Matthew 26: 40-41



Olivet BC (at night)

Dear **Church Administrative Assistants, Church Secretaries, Ministry Assistants, Financial Secretaries, Bookkeepers, Office Managers, Office Volunteers** — currently or formerly employed with a church-related entity or retired:

“As a church Secretary, Administrative Assistant, etc. we are sometimes the only person “at church”. We have no one to talk to, relate to, even to hear the words, “How are you doing?” The pandemic we have lived through and continue to has awaked our eyes, heart, and soul to realize God made us “relationship people”. You may receive phone calls or other communications telling you of a grieving family or sickness. You take down the information, silently pray for them, tell your Pastor, and move on to your daily tasks. Before the pandemic we were all so busy, we may not have felt we had the time to take care of our own inner being. Eddie Heath encouraged me to join the Baptist Ministry Assistants of VA (BMAV) in 2015. It has been a warm fellowship of God-loving Church Administrators/Secretaries. Prior to the pandemic we met in person at retreats in the Spring & Fall. During covid-19 this year we have “met” by Zoom and other digital ways. It is a time of spiritual enrichment and growth. Special speakers are present to offer encouragement and Biblical scripture/training. The bond of your Christian sisters fills your heart with love for one another and strengthens your faith and trust in our Savior. We gain a greater understanding of our ministry to our church and more important, to God. There are continuing education opportunities. I highly encourage you to consider joining BMAV, application at website: bmv.org. If you have questions, please contact me.”

Barbara Bareford, MTBA Office Administrator, e-mail: barbara@midtidewaterbaptist.org (804-758-4385 work)

“I could give you a definition of what the Baptist Ministry Assistants of Virginia (BMAV) is, but those words would not touch what this organization means to those who are members. Within this group is a heart for service and mission. It is a place to learn new skills, share ideas, grow spiritually, pray together, and yes refuel so we can return to our ministry areas with a renewed strength. This is a special invitation for you to join us as we learn and grow together. The officers would love to hear from you if you have questions.”

Marilee White, BMAV President, e-mail: marilee.white@bgav.org (804-955-8395 mobile)



BMAV Retreat
in VA Beach
(prior to 2020)



Mrs. Pat Patterson (pictured), was the MTBA Administrative Secretary during the period that her husband, Dr. John “Jack” Patterson, was MTBA’s Director of Missions, October 1995—October 2006. She and her husband had served as missionary-professors on the faculty of the International Baptist Theological Seminary of Central America and Northern South America 1956—1966. They were loved by MTBA as they served the Lord faithfully. Just recently we talked with Mrs. Patterson, who resides in Covenant Woods in Mechanicsville. She was as jolly as ever, always a positive attitude. When you truly know and trust the Lord, you are filled with joy.

Mrs. Patterson sends her love to MTBA. She said she has fond memories of the MTBA family. Both Dr. & Mrs. Patterson paved the MTBA road with deep roots of faith in which we are benefiting today. Dr. Patterson passed in 2012. We thank God for them both! If you would like to send a card, her address is: Mrs. Pat Patterson, Covenant Woods, Apartment D205, 7090 Covenant Woods Drive, Mechanicsville, VA 23111.

*“O come, let us sing unto **the LORD**: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.” Psalm 95:1*

“Lord ... remind us today that You have shown us what is good in what You require of us; to do justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with our God. We ask that as a people, we may humble ourselves before You and seek Your will for our lives and for this great nation. Help us in our nation to work as never before to strengthen our families and to give our children hope and a moral foundation for the future. So may our desire be to serve You, and in so doing, serve one another. This we pray in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

By: Rev. Billy Graham



STAY CONNECTED

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1. **Visit us:** 884 Gloucester Road, (behind Saluda post office), 2nd floor, Monday-Wednesday 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

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4. **Share our Stories: On Facebook Page** <https://www.facebook.com/MidTidewaterBaptists/>

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