

Gather, Revive, and Thrive

Psalm 92:12-15

Yes! Yes, there is going to be a MTBA Fall Meeting. The Program Committee feels we will be able to gather safely on October 17, at Newington BC. The committee believes that the Newington BC sanctuary and fellowship hall will provide us generous spacing so that we can gather in safety. Although the Committee does not believe that we should have an evening meal as a part of our program, we believe that there are many other positive aspects that we can focus on. Here are some of the key things that you might want to know as you plan to attend our fall meeting:

- This year's theme and scripture is Gather, Revive, and Thrive, Psalm 92:12-15
- Registration will begin at 3:30 PM
- At 4:00 PM we will begin a fellowship time in the Fellowship Hall. We have heard many times over how much our MTBA has missed fellowshiping with their friends from other MTBA churches. So we are beginning our Fall Meeting with a Fellowship Time.
- Between 4:45 and 5:30 we will remain in the Fellowship Hall to hear reports and to vote on necessary items that need action from our MTBA members in attendance. We will use this time to vote on the 2022 Proposed Budget, a Nominating Committee recommendation, as well as a time for remembering those MTBA Saints who have passed since our last meeting in 2019 thru September 2021.
- There will be some amazing testimonies that took place during COVID.
- At 5:45 we will gather in the sanctuary for a time of worship and celebration.
- We will have the opportunity to hear from Mr. Mike Dodson, who is the State Coordinator for "Hope for Appalachia".
- We have planned a time to recognize new pastors to the MTBA since 2019.
- Presentation of a Servant Leadership Award to Jim Burns.
- Recognition of Pastor Mike Gray for his 30 years of leadership at Newington BC and to MTBA.
- One of the high points of this year's fall meeting will happen when our MTBA family will come together at the Lord's Supper Table to break bread together.

We hope each of you will make plans now to attend our MTBA Fall Gathering. We are a family and our association of churches is where we find our strength. The Program Committee has planned a great meeting. You will not want to miss it. Looking forward to seeing each of you on Sunday afternoon on October 17.

Eddie Heath

Director of Missions, Mid-Tidewater Baptist Association



We are saddened by the passing of **Dr. Robert May** on December 30, 2020. Dr. May was MTBA's Director of Missions from 2006—2015. He had a servant heart, a faithful friend to the Lord Jesus Christ, and to anyone who was blessed to have cross paths on his life journey. Dr. May loved the people in MTBA churches and had a heart for missions. He is with his Lord and receiving riches in Heaven.

Dear Friends of the Mid-Tidewater Baptist Association:

I want to express to you my profound gratitude for your prayers and cards during these days. The words of comfort that you have shared with me have been tremendously encouraging and have touched my mind and heart in many beautiful ways. Blessings like these have lifted me up to see beyond the present and into our glorious future with Jesus.

Robert so greatly treasured his years of working with the MTBA. His heart was filled with much joy every time he got into his truck to travel to the office or to do whatever responsibility that was on his schedule. He was always deeply grateful for the ministry that God had called him to do with the MTBA and for the bond of friendship that he so enjoyed there.

This has been an experience for me like no other I have ever had in my life. I am so thankful for the marvelous peace and depth of understanding that the Lord has brought to me through this season of my life. Knowing that the Lord is with me and guiding me through every moment confirms again His great love and faithfulness.

My final moments with Robert in the hospital, along with our sons, Steven and Richard, were precious beyond my words to express. Robert was so peaceful, as he said, a number of times, "I'm ready." He knew that he was about to go into the presence of the Lord. He knew that his service on earth was completed and that to be absent from the body was to be present with the Lord. He finished well. He died with patience. He died with hope. He died with joy and anticipation of being with Jesus. He died confidently. This is why he could look at our sons and me, and smile, and say a number of times in his last hours, "I am ready." This is why he could say with the apostle Paul, "For me to live is Christ and to die is gain." He knew that it was far better to depart and be with Christ.

My prayer is for our loving and gracious Lord's abundant blessings to be with you all.

Love in Christ,
Marilyn
(widow of Dr. Robert May)



Dr. Robert & Marilyn May



“We Will Build Back Better”

On Friday, August 13, Lower King and Queen Baptist Church was destroyed by a horrible fire. The fire destroyed the building, the contents in the building, and most regrettably historical artifacts that are irreplaceable. It was an heart wrenching experience for this church family.

Even though the fire destroyed their physical church, it has not damped the spirit or the vision of Lower King and Queen BC one bit. The church has insurance, they are blessed with a committed group of members and leaders, as well as a new pastor, all who are up to the challenges that go with rebuilding a church building after a fire.

In a conversation with Deacon Tommy Longest he said, “The church building may be destroyed, but church body is still strong and ready to go. We will build back better”. I assured Tommy the church has all the love, support, and prayers of their MTBA Family. I also shared with Tommy that I have received several calls from churches that would like to help with the build back and other financial needs. For those individuals and churches who would like to make financial love gifts to the church you can mail checks to:

Lower King and Queen Baptist Church
c/o T.O. Longest, Jr., Treasurer
P.O. Box 126
King and Queen C.H, Virginia 23085

Memo Line: Building Fund

This is the second time fire has destroyed the buildings of Lower King and Queen BC. The first fire took place in 1919. And just like the first time, they are going to rebuild. The plan is to build back even better. As an association of churches, we are committed to remember this part of the body of Christ in our prayers, encouragement with our words, and the labor of hands when needed. In the midst of this tragedy, there is an air of excitement as they move into this new future with new opportunities that God is preparing for them.

**God Bless the brothers and sisters of
Lower King and Queen Baptist Church!**

HOPE for APPALACHIA VIRGINIA INC.

At the MTBA Executive Committee voted to ask the Community Ministries Action Team to lead the MTBA to participate in the *Hope for Appalachia Virginia* mission project. The Hope for Appalachia Mission Statement says their *mission is to share the HOPE and LOVE of Jesus Christ to needy children living in the Appalachian mountains.* Their Purpose statement reads as follows,

Hope For Appalachia Virginia Inc ministers to "the least of these" in the Appalachian mountains of Kentucky, West Virginia and Virginia. Our ministry provides much needed school supplies and hygiene products through the gift of a Hope Box to children living in some of the most impoverished counties in the United States.

Their goal for this year is to present a Hope Box and share the love and hope of Jesus Christ with at least 22,000 children at over 60 public schools. That means they are hoping to pack 22,000 6 quart plastic Sterilite shoe boxes. The MTBA Executive Committee has asked the Community Ministries to lead our association in packing 1,000 Sterilite shoe boxes to be delivered to the Hope for Appalachia people in early 2022.

The Community Ministries Team will look at the possibility of hosting a packing event much in the same way as when we packed 20,000 meals for Rise Against Hunger. Rather than packing food we will be supply school supplies and hygiene products for these children in Appalachia. We have also invited Mr. Mike Dodson, the State Coordinator for Hope for Appalachia , to speak at our MTBA Fall Meeting on October 17.

The Community Ministries Team will also look at a way for some churches to pack their own boxes even before the packing event takes place. They will also be working with our MTBA Youth Committee to find a way to engage a significant number of our youth in this packing event. This has the potential to be one of the most exciting projects we have undertaken.

MTBA Communities Ministries Action Group continues their 2021 mission project, "Ramp It Up", by building ramps for those who have difficulty navigating steps. In late April MTBA received an urgent request and within hours this ramp was assembled.



Thank you from homeowner:

I just wanted to thank the Mid-Tidewater Baptist Association for putting Urbanna BC in touch with Jim Burns and his expertise with assembling the metal wheelchair ramp that belongs to the Association. With Jim's guidance and the assistance from numerous members of Urbanna BC and others, this ramp was assembled in less than 2 hours! Oh what a blessing. This truly was a beautiful sight seeing all of these friends (God's Angels) working together to provide this amazing ramp in such a timely matter.

Plans began in May for another ramp. Jim Burns, Chair, took measurements of the ramp needed and ordered materials for a home in Laneview. A group of Youth from Hermitage BC removed overgrowth, shrubs, etc. On Saturday, July 17, a very hot day, a team of workers from numerous churches constructed a ramp. Saluda BC delivered lunch. **Thank you faithful servants**, for giving of your heart and time to show God's love and light!



Hermitage BC youth



THE CHURCH POST-PANDEMIC

As many churches have returned to inside worship, singing, communion, no masks, no social distancing, **Gwynn's Island BC** has felt called to worship in new and vibrant ways that began in early 2020 due to covid-19 pandemic. Their worship service includes special music, prayer, scripture, an inspiring message by Pastor Ed Jordan, and cooperatively singing at "the Gazebo" (pictured below). Sit in your car or chair, tune your radio to 104.3 and worship in the presence of God. This service has had and continues to have great spiritual success. Pastor Jordan comments in his writings, "Lifelines, February 11, 2021, issue entitled "The Way Forward" that "we will need leaders with a high Contextual Quotient (to understand the context of the situations going on around you. In fact, we will all need to become contextual thinkers, who like the tribe of Issachar in 1 Chronicles 12:32 will be "men who were skilled in understanding the times, to know what Israel should do..."

Thank you, Lord, for this facility and capability to do this every Sunday and thank you for faithful people who come to worship you!



Gwynn's Island BC "Service at the Gazebo"

JOB OPPORTUNITY:

Gwynn's Island BC is looking for a "Music Ministry Leader", contact Shelby South (e-mail: 4souths@gmail.com) or phone 804-694-6233.

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 barbara@midtidewaterbaptist.org

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

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