

**"Making A List and Checking It Twice"**



By the time you receive this newsletter, most of you will have made your Christmas shopping list and probably have spent some time checking it once or twice. It's a part of Christmas. We just want to make sure we are giving just the right gift to the special people in our lives.

This Christmas our MTBA family has added a new name to our Christmas list. The new addition is **"Hope for Appalachia"**. The MTBA Family has committed to putting together 1,200 (6 Quart) Plastic Shoeboxes for underprivileged students, ages 4-18. These children live deep in the Appalachian Mountains where one-third of the region lives in poverty without hope and in great despair. Each box will include the following items: pencils, pencil sharpener, erasers, toothbrushes, a full-sized tube of toothpaste, 2 pair of socks, and a pair of gloves. Other items will be such things as school supplies and age appropriate fun items.

The projected cost for this project is between \$10,000-\$15,000. The funding will be through our annual MTBA Mission Offering, This is the offering that is above the regular MTBA offerings that the MTBA receives each month to operate the MTBA. All of the monies received this year for the MTBA Mission Offering will go directly to fund the **"Hope for Appalachia"** project.

When you work on your Christmas list this year, please put these three things on your list:

1. I will make some time to pray for the Hope for Appalachia mission project.
2. I will make a financial gift to the MTBA Mission Offering to help fund the Hope For Appalachia.
3. I will make plans to attend the **February 19, 2022, Hope For Appalachia Packing Event, at Hermitage Baptist Church.**

The Community Ministries Team has already begun meeting and planning for this undertaking. Some churches have already begun making some of the fun items that will be placed in our gift boxes. We are thankful for Hermitage BC for their willingness to host the packing event on February 19. There is still a lot of things to be done before we get to the packing event, but we are confident that the Lord will provide for us, at every point of need, so we can be a blessing to these children in 2022.

If you have any questions or would like to have additional information on the Hope for Appalachia mission project, just give the MTBA office a call (804-758-4385). We will be happy to help.

*Eddie*

*Director of Missions for the MTBA*

November 2, 2021

**FIRE DESTROYS NEW HOPE MEMORIAL BC**

As hard as it is to believe, on November 2, 2021, New Hope Memorial BC was the third church to be destroyed by fire in King and Queen County in just over 12 months. The other two churches were Old Church United Methodist and Lower King and Queen Baptist in Dragonsville. Rev. Dan Grantham is the pastor of New Hope Memorial.

Even though Pastor Dan and the members of New Hope Memorial are heartbroken over the loss of their church building, they are not discouraged. Their spirits are positive and their confidence in the Lord to provide for them is unwavering. As Pastor Dan and other members have said, "We lost our building, not our church".

Since the fire, they have been gathering for worship on Sunday mornings at Poroporone Baptist Church. Their plan is to return to a Drive In Church format sometime in January 2022. This format was successful for them in 2021 when they dealt with COVID –19 issues. On December 19, they will have a living nativity at the parking lot of New Hope Memorial BC from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM. They will be serving lots of hot cider, hot chocolate, cake, cookies, and Christmas music. It is open to all. Like the folks at New Hope say, "we may have lost our church building, but our church is still alive and serving the Lord and our community."

If you would like to make a gift to their rebuild efforts, you can send your checks to New Hope Memorial Baptist Church, 17623 New Hope Rd., Shackelfords, VA 23156. They have begun the clean up process with the hope that enough clean up will have been completed by January 2022 so they can begin Drive In Church gatherings.

Please continue to pray for our sister church, New Hope Memorial BC.

Another ramp was built in October. **Thank you to MTBA Community Ministries Action Group**, led by Jim Burns, Chair, (Poroporone BC). Numerous ramps were built in our communities during 2021 to assist those with mobility issues. Well done!



MTBA welcomes **Rev. Rick Hudock**, who was called as Pastor of **Beale Memorial BC** and began his ministry at Beale on October 17. Pastor Rick brings over 25 years of ministry experience and has ministered internationally. Rick is married to Kathy and have six children. MTBA looks forward ministering together with Rev. Hudock in obedience to our Lord to the Great Commission.



**Rev. Mike Gray**, (L to R: fourth person pictured), is retiring as of December 31, 2021, as Pastor of Newington BC after serving 30 years. Newington's staff is pictured at a retirement party that Newington BC hosted on Nov. 21. Rev. Gray has been a faithful worker for MTBA, having served on numerous Committees and Action Groups, Moderator, numerous disaster response mission trips, and served on DOM Search Committee that called Eddie Heath as MTBA DOM. Thank you, Pastor Mike, for serving our Lord and Savior, while serving MTBA! We know our Lord has great work ahead for you through your servant heart!



*Unto Us A Child is Born,  
Let There Be Peace On Earth,  
Goodwill To All*

*Merry Christmas From Eddie and Barbara*

**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, 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)  
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](http://www.midtidewaterbaptist.org)

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

**MID-TIDEWATER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION OF VA**  
**2021 HISTORIAN'S REPORT**

It has been a historic year for the Mid-Tidewater Baptist Association. In spite of all of the obstacles that threatened to prevent the Association from carrying on its mission of "Serving, Cooperating, and Sharing", opportunities for service continued to be met by the Committees and Action Groups.

The Ramp-Up Mission has proven to be a blessing to many who need access to a home for a handicapped resident. Over the past year several ramps were built at homes throughout the Mid-Tidewater region. The cost of materials for the ramps are paid by the Association and labor provided by volunteers from the member churches of the Mid-Tidewater Baptist Association. Because of your gifts of money and labor, many now have much easier access to their homes.

While we are thankful for the success of the Ramp-Up Mission, we are unable to understand why tragedy occurs. In August of 2021, the sanctuary of Lower King & Queen Baptist Church was destroyed by fire. Although we may not understand why such an event should occur, we must continue to believe that God is still in control of all. During the dark days of the exile of the Jews in Babylon, the Lord spoke to the prophet Jeremiah and these words apply just as much to us today as they did when Jeremiah prophesied to the Jews more than 2,500 years ago:

"For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future".

At this time Lower King & Queen Baptist Church holds services at the Women's Club Building at King & Queen Courthouse and plans for the future of the Church building are ongoing. Our hearts and prayers are with our brothers and sisters at Lower King & Queen Baptist Church, and we are thankful for their faithful service to the Mid-Tidewater Baptist Association.

The main concern of the churches of the Association over the past year has continued to be the effect of the coronavirus.

It has now been over a year and a half since the pandemic began to spread over the United States. For many months, our lives were dramatically affected by this disease and many of our normal daily routines were altered by our efforts to halt the spread of the coronavirus. One of the routines that was changed because of the pandemic was the way in which we worshipped. No longer did we gather together in close proximity within the confines of the church sanctuary. At the start, churches began streaming the Pastor's sermons live online with a copy posted on the church's website or Facebook page. Eventually, the drive-in service was developed with sermons broadcast, not only online, but to a congregation listening from their automobiles though a low wattage FM signal. These services rapidly increased in popularity and music began to be incorporated into the service. Within a short period of time, many churches in the Mid-Tidewater Baptist Association who had developed a drive-in service were experiencing an increase in church attendance, some in small proportions yet others in dramatic fashion. It was reported that some of these churches had more than doubled their attendance by implementing a drive-in service to serve their congregations. Yet, with all of this interest in online and drive-in services, over time there became a call from some for a return to normal. When would we be able to hold services in the sanctuary again? When would we be able to sing hymns again? When would a collection plate be passed around again? When would the choir be able to perform? When would we be able to do all of those things at church that we did before this calamity descended upon us?

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This situation reminded me of another time in history when God's people suffered from a sudden calamity. In 586 B. C. the city of Jerusalem was destroyed by the Babylonian Empire and part of the population of the Kingdom of Judah was taken to Babylon in exile. After a number of years in Babylon, the Jewish exiles were allowed to return to Jerusalem after the Persian Empire under Cyrus the Great conquered the Babylonians. Upon returning to Jerusalem, construction was begun on a new temple to replace the magnificent temple built by King Solomon that had been destroyed by the Babylonians. First, they erected and dedicated the altar of God on the exact spot where it had formerly stood and in the second month of the second year, which was 535 B.C., amid great public excitement and rejoicing, the foundation of the Second Temple was laid. Although this event was met with great anticipation, it was regarded with mixed feelings among the spectators. Ezra 3: 11-13 tells us..."And all the people gave a great shout of praise to the Lord because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid. But many of the older priests and Levites and family heads who had seen the former temple wept aloud when they saw the foundation of this temple being laid, while many others shouted for joy. No one could distinguish the sounds of joy from the sound of weeping because the people made so much noise."

Yes, a calamity had taken away everything that was "normal" from the Jewish people, and finally a new Temple was being erected on the site of the exquisite edifice that was erected centuries earlier by King Solomon. Yet many of the older people were not impressed with the new temple being built, and remembering the magnificence of the old temple, could not help but weep at the sight of this small structure being erected to take its place. However, the younger celebrants who had never known the splendor of Solomon's Temple, shouted aloud for joy because the temple was being rebuilt. No, it was not what it was before, but the work of God continues.

Sometimes circumstances allow us to experience new ways of doing things. We have learned new ways to worship God without a sanctuary and streaming services online reaches people who may never attend a service inside of a church. But we remember the way we were brought up in church as youngsters, and long for those days to return, to get back to normal. We are like the Jewish exiles, some of us are rejoicing in our new experiences and others are weeping as we remember the old traditions. We long to return to normal, but we must remember that we are to do the will of God and should not be motivated by our own wants and desires.

Jesus put aside his wants and desires in order to do the will of God, and willingly went to the cross. Will we be as obedient to what God wants us to do as Jesus?



John M. Bareford, Jr.  
MTBA Historian  
September 2021