

Intercessory Prayer Team Launches A New Initiative

For the past 6 years, the Intercessory Prayer Team has led the MTBA Prayer Gatherings on the second Monday night of each month to pray for our churches and their leaders. Each Monday night the team would gather with others to focus their prayers toward the needs of the churches where they were gathering as well as the one or two churches that were the closest to the church where the team was meeting. They would pray for each pastor, deacons, Sunday School teachers, church leaders, and any other needs that were given to the Prayer Team by the host churches. The plan did not prevent those who gathered from praying for other needs that were shared, but it was stressed the importance of praying for the host churches and its needs.

Since COVID, our local schools, as well as schools all across our country, have been going through very difficult times. There has been a surge in the number of teachers who are leaving the teaching profession, many teachers who have lost their joy in teaching because of the many additional responsibilities being asked of them, plus just the division in American culture and politics is taking a toll on every area of public education. What is so concerning is that many of those in public education are just giving up. ***I don't think there has ever been a time in American history when those in public education needed our prayers more than they do now.***

When the Intercessory Prayer Team met on August 9, they discussed the possibility of changing the prayer focus of their prayer gatherings for the remainder of 2022 and all 2023. Rather than making the host churches the center piece of their prayer time, they talked of making our public schools the focus of their prayer gatherings. They would pray for principals, assistants, teachers, workers, and students. There are hundreds of administrators and secretaries, thousands of teachers, students, and bus drivers who are in need of our prayer support.

Here is what the plan looks like:

- Each month when our MTBA gathers for prayer, they will focus on the staffs of 3 schools.
- We will ask each MTBA pastor to ask his or her church to adopt a school that is assigned to them. They will commit to pray for the staffs and students of these schools on a regular basis. Each church could offer to do more, like sending notes of encouragement, helping teachers on move in day, etc., but is up to each individual church.
- The DOM will write a letter of introduction to each superintendent of schools as well as the principal of each school to let them know that we will be praying for them on a regular basis, but will not be on the campus without an invitation.

Thank you Intercessory Prayer Team, for helping us find a way to bless those who serve in our schools.

Eddie Heath, Director Missions for MTBA

RAMP-IT UP—MISSION PROJECT CONTINUES.

In 2022 despite covid, winter weather and hot Summertime, MTBA through the hands of Servant hearts, have built seven (7) ramps. Thank you to these Godly men and women and thank you to MTBA churches who give to the “Week of Prayer” offering that provides funds to pay for materials. All labor is donated. **“Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.” Mathew 22:36-39**





SAVE
THE
DATE

Mid-Tidewater Baptist Association



Fall Meeting October 30, 2022 Zoar Baptist Church

The MTBA Program Committee has been working on another great worship experience for when our MTBA churches gather for their annual fall meeting. The theme for this year's annual meeting is *Praying With Thankful Hearts*. Because the committee received such good feedback on the MTBA Spring meeting, they felt led to create something that would be a follow up to the prayer theme they used for the Spring Meeting. They are excited about the way the Holy Spirit has led them and look forward to presenting this program on October 30th, at Zoar Baptist Church. Please help us get the word out to all of our MTBA family and encourage them to save this date.

3:00 PM-4:00 PM Registration

3:40 PM - 4:00 PM Mini Concert by *Rappahannock Crossing Band*

4:00 PM MTBA Annual Fall Meeting

Fellowship Time hosted by Zoar BC after the Fall Meeting

REFLECTIONS

Does God really care? Really, God?

Do you ever feel your gas tank is on empty, and I am not talking about your car? I look up to Heaven where my strength comes from. I think God puts angels in our path to show us His presence. Let us have eyes to see and ears to hear. About a month ago I went to New Hope Memorial BC to pick up my Barbecue dinner that they were having a fund raising for the loss of their church building destroyed by fire. My goal was to pick up the food I had paid for and leave. What I did not expect was to **see Jesus** in the church members' faces, their helping hands, and their joy and love in serving. New Hope could have thrown in the towel as they were faced with a huge task of raising funds to cover the cost of a building that insurance did not fully cover. They worked in unity as Peter's early church. No one said "I'm too busy, it's too much work, we are a small church-what can we do"? But with God all things are possible! **There was Jesus right in front of me.** Maybe the question, Does God really care, maybe, just maybe, God is waiting for YOU and ME to be Jesus to someone TODAY.

Barbara Bareford

MTBA Office Administrator

Ordination service for **Robert “Bob” Huff**, March 30.
Pictured left to right: Eddie Heath, Rev. Bob Huff,
Pastor of Westville BC, and Rev. Huff’s wife, Terry.



**MTBA WMU MEETING: Saturday, September 17
at 10 am at Saluda BC.**

Guest speaker: Anteal Gargiulo of WMUV who will
speak about VA state project: Mental Health.
ALL ARE INVITED!

Marilyn May, widow of Dr. Robert “Bob” May (former MTBA DOM), wrote

Yes! It is just as your beautiful card states: “God Makes Beautiful Things.”

This great truth came to me again in such a wonderful way on Saturday afternoon when I brought in my mail, opened the brown envelope, and discovered the 2022 MTBA Annual. I was filled with emotion as I saw Bobby’s picture and began to read the beautiful tribute to him. I will always give thanks to the Lord and tremendously treasure my memories of seeing his great passion and love for the MTBA during his years of ministry there.

As I read through the annual, I was deeply impressed by all the many wonderful ways that the MTBA is reaching out with the Gospel message of Jesus Christ, especially during these very difficult times. Even with so many challenging circumstances, we can rejoice that the Lord is guiding us and watching over us through every task that is before us. My prayers are for God’s beautiful blessings to be with all of you as you move forward in your service together in the months ahead!

Again, thank you so very much for sending me a copy of the 2022 Annual. What a marvelous blessing this is to me!

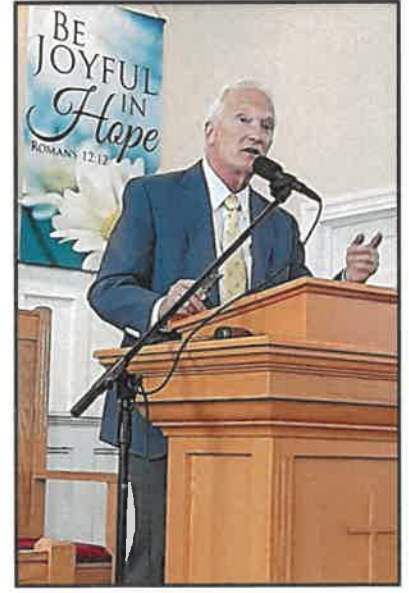
Love, Marilyn

PICTURES OF MTBA SPRING MEETING, SUNDAY, MAY 15, 2022, AT 4 PM AT POROPORONE BC.

Motion was approved to receive New Friendship BC, Heathsville, into MTBA



Rev. Doug Davis, Pastor Poroporone BC, welcomes. Garth Wheeler, Moderator. New Friendship BC. Tammy Faulkner, Program Comm.



Betty Kennon, Treasurer. Sue Smith, Song Leader & Program Comm. Lorelle Perry, special music, "The Lord's Prayer" prayed. Rev. Don Davidson, speaker



Rev. Stephen Rountree, Program Comm. gives instructions for participating in 4 Prayer Stations. Congregational singing.

MTBA, including Pastors and lay leaders, honored **Dr. John Upton**, BGAV Executive Director, on April 19 to thank Dr. Upton for his service as BGAV Executive Director since 2001, President of Baptist World Alliance from 2010 to 2015, having traveled all over the world, and had served as Pastor of Urbanna BC. Dr. Upton was presented a serving tray depicting a map of this area. Dr. Upton retired on July 31, 2022, as BGAV Executive Director.



Pictured: Eddie Heath, MTBA DOM, and Dr. John Upton (l to r)



Pictured: Rev. Doug Davis (Poroporone BC), Eddie Heath, Dr. Upton, Rev. Edward Harrow, Sr. (Zoar BC), Mr. William Gwathmey (Bruington BC) (l to r)

MTBA honored our **Administrative Professionals** to an Appreciation luncheon on April 27 at Olivia's, Gloucester. Marilee White, BGAV Executive Assistant, was guest speaker who said "each one of us is valuable and have our own story. It radiates to others—God gives us gifts, offer them to others." Each Ministry Assistant was given a gift by MTBA as a thank you for their faithful service in their church. It was a great time of fellowship and sharing. Well done Administrative Professionals!



STAY CONNECTED

Mid-Tidewater Baptist Association
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MTBA is comprised of 28 churches located in Essex, Gloucester, King and Queen, Lancaster, Mathews, Middlesex, Northumberland, and Richmond Counties on the Middle Peninsula and Northern Neck, VA.

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

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6. Read The Tidings: your MTBA Newsletter