



A Great Day for Hope for Appalachia and the MTBA

On Saturday morning, February 18th, over 200 volunteers gathered at Hermitage BC to pack 1200 Sterilite boxes with school supplies, a variety of hygiene items, and a few fun items. These boxes will be delivered to school age children in grades PK-12th grade. The children live in the Appalachian area of Kentucky which is one of the most poverty stricken areas in America. The energy and spirit of those in attendance was awesome and the feedback we have received has been positive, "better than last year", and "I hope we do this again".

Such a huge mission project like this would not be possible without the help of so many over the past 6 months. Leading the way was the Community Ministries Action Group. Jim Burns chairs this team and has a wonderful group of men and women serving with him. Tom Brooks, Pat Emery, Dr. Edloe, Janice Bohannon, Everett Hughes, Dana Brown, Joe Allen, Annette Greenwood, Mike Gray, and Tee Mallon (WMU rep.), all brought their special gifts and commitments on the Community Ministries Team to lead the way for the MTBA Hope Project.

There were also another group of volunteers that joined the efforts of the Community Action team. Their help was invaluable, and it is hard to imagine the success we would have had without their contribution. I want to express my appreciation to Gene Nuttall, Debbie Emery, Arleen Allen, Cindy Hodges, Brenda Armistead, Betty Kennon and her cousin, Becky Miller, Ronnie Russell, Rev. Joe McKnight (Hermitage BC), Annette Burns, and John and Barbara Bareford.

Of course we want to give a special thanks to Lisa Langford and her kitchen crew who provided lunch for all of the hungry packers once our work was done. Thank you so much to pastor Joe, and the Hermitage Baptist Church family who opened the doors of their church in such a gracious way for the Hope for Appalachia Project. We are so thankful that you are part of the MTBA Family.

Looking at the Numbers



- Over 200 participants at Saturday's packing event.
- 1200 Sterilite boxes packed into 80 large cartons.
- Cost of Hope for Appalachia project, approximately \$10,000.
- Monetary gifts received from individuals and churches to date: \$4,212.00
- Professions of Faith in Jesus. Not yet reported.

Eddie Heath, Director of Missions

SAVE THE DATES

- **SUNDAY MARCH 12** DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS
- **MONDAY, MARCH 27, 7PM** MTBA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (SALUDA BC)
- **SUNDAY APRIL 2** PALM SUNDAY
- **SUNDAY APRIL 9** EASTER SUNDAY
- **SUNDAY APRIL 23** MTBA SPRING MEETING AT MATTAPONI BC
- **SATURDAY APRIL 29, 10 AM** MTBA WMU MEETING AT SALUDA BC, SPEAKER: MARISSA SANCHEZ, MINISTRY ASSISTANT, EASTERN SHORE

RAMP-IT UP MISSION PROJECTS

MTBA Community Ministries Team of volunteers continues to build ramps for people having difficulty with steps. God bless their servant hearts as they bless their neighbors.



Debbie Emery (Glebe Landing BC) serving lunch for workers.



**SEE PAGE 6 FOR
ADDITIONAL
RAMPS BUILT**

MID-TIDEWATER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION OF VA
2022 HISTORIAN'S REPORT

In the natural world it is customary for humans, as they age, to grow weaker in strength and for eyesight to diminish. However, it appears that the Mid-Tidewater Baptist Association does not follow that trend but is of the nature of Moses. In Deuteronomy 34:7 (NIV) we read:

“Moses was one hundred twenty years old when he died, yet his eyes were not weak, nor his strength gone.”

As the Mid-Tidewater Baptist Association ends its 63rd year, its vision is not weak, nor its strength gone. The vision of MTBA is more clearly focused on missions than ever and its strength continues to increase.

There is strength in numbers and the number of churches in the Mid-Tidewater Baptist Association continues to increase. Since my last report, MTBA has added two new member churches: New Friendship Baptist Church and Corrottoman Baptist Church. We welcome these brothers and sisters in Christ into fellowship and mission with MTBA.

The Mid-Tidewater Association was able to hold its Spring and Fall semi-annual meetings during 2022. The Spring meeting was graciously hosted by Poroporone Baptist Church and the Fall meeting was graciously hosted by Zoar Baptist Church. Each meeting was well attended, and the Program Committee had special music and interesting speakers for each meeting.

In the scriptures, God promises to give us the strength to handle our adversities. During the year of 2021 both Lower King and Queen (Wares) Baptist Church and New Hope Memorial Baptist Church lost their church buildings to fire. The church buildings were destroyed but the resolve of the church members to rebuild was not. Many churches and friends have assisted in the rebuilding efforts. Plans are under way to rebuild both sanctuaries and the future looks bright for these congregations.

Pastors and lay leaders of the Mid-Tidewater churches honored Dr. John Upton, Executive Director of the Baptist General Association of Virginia at a gathering held at Saluda Baptist Church on April 19th to thank him for his service as Executive Director of the BGAV since 2001 and as President of the Baptist World Alliance from 2010 to 2015. Dr. Upton retired as Executive Director of the BGAV on July 31, 2022.

Every pastor will admit that the church secretary is the most important person in seeing that all aspects of the church run smoothly. The MTBA honored these administrative professionals with an Administrative Professionals Appreciation Luncheon which was held at Olivia's in Gloucester on April 27th. Marilee White, Executive Assistant for the Baptist General Association of Virginia, was the guest speaker for this event.

Glebe Landing Baptist Church celebrated its 250th birthday on October 16, 2022. Constituted by John Waller on October 17, 1772, the church predates the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Many were on hand at the all-day festivities that included special speakers and musical groups.

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MTBA - 2022 HISTORIAN'S REPORT (continued)

As always, there are seasons for the churches. Rev Chris Grella was called as pastor of Newington Baptist Church beginning on July 1, 2022. Dr. Jeff Shanaberger resigned from White Stone Baptist Church after many years of service to that community. Rev. Mike Gray subsequently has been called to serve as interim pastor at White Stone Baptist Church. Eddie Harrow resigned as pastor of Saluda Baptist Church on September 30, 2022, and Rev. Nita May was called as pastor and began service to Saluda Baptist in October of 2022. Ordination services were held for Rev. Robert (Bob) Huff, pastor of Westville Baptist Church and for Rev. John Seltzer, pastor of Corrottoman Baptist Church. We praise the Lord for raising up these Godly leaders.

We also extend sympathy to the family of Pat Patterson who went to be with the Lord on November 21, 2022. Pat was the first Administrative Secretary of the Mid-Tidewater Baptist Association serving under her husband, Dr. John "Jack" Patterson who was the MTBA Director of Missions from 1995-2006.

The strength of the Mid-Tidewater Baptist Association was evident by its involvement in mission work throughout 2022. The Ramp-up ministry program has proven to be a blessing to many people unable to navigate the steps into their own home. The faithful workers of MTBA who build these ramps constructed 11 ramps at various homes throughout the Mid-Tidewater area during the year of 2022 and it does not appear that there will be any less demand for the building of ramps during the coming year. We thank the Community Ministries Action Group and those dedicated construction volunteers who serve the Lord in the giving of their time and talents in constructing these ramps.

The biggest project that was completed during 2022 was the partnership with Rev. Mike Dodson and his Hope for Appalachia ministry. Rev. Mike and his ministry crew deliver "hope boxes" to needy school children throughout the most poverty-stricken areas of Kentucky and Virginia. MTBA acquired the contents necessary to pack 1200 of these "hope boxes" and more than 200 volunteers from MTBA churches met with Rev. Mike at Hermitage Baptist Church on February 19, 2022, to pack and ship these 1200 boxes. This was the largest mission project that the Mid-Tidewater Association had attempted to date, and it was a smashing success. Not only were there sufficient goods to pack 1200 boxes, there was not enough room in the trailer to carry all the materials in one load! MTBA volunteers filled another trailer and delivered its contents to Rev. Dodson for him to distribute to the needy children of the Appalachian region. Plans are being made to repeat this project during February of 2023.

It has been an historic year for the Mid-Tidewater Baptist Association. Many times, we may wonder "What can my small church do to further God's kingdom?" Together with the serving, cooperating and sharing of 29 churches, the possibilities are limitless.

John M. Bareford, Jr.
MTBA Historian
(Saluda Baptist Church)



HOPE FOR APPALACHIA PACKING, FEBRUARY 18, 2023, AT HERMITAGE BC



RAMP-IT UP, ADDITIONAL RAMPS BUILT/CONSTRUCTED



STAY CONNECTED

Mid-Tidewater Baptist Association
P. O. Box 302
884 Gloucester Road
Saluda, VA 23149

MTBA is comprised of 29 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)
Barbara Bareford, Office Administrator

eddie@midtidewaterbaptist.org
barbara@midtidewaterbaptist.org

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

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