

**2023 MTBA Spring Meeting One of The Best**

Back in February, the MTBA Program Committee had more questions than answers about the 2023 Spring Meeting. Questions like what will be the theme, was asking Mattaponi BC to host the Spring Meeting asking too much for one of our smaller rural churches, most of MTBA churches don't even know where Mattaponi is even located, should we have a fellowship meal this meeting, and will there be any interest in tours of Mattaponi's historic cemetery? And finally what will a spring meeting be like without our DOM in attendance? Eddie will more than likely still be in the hospital recovering from open heart surgery. Those early program meetings seemed to be a lot of going in circles with so many ideas and questions on the table.

But after much prayer and hours of sharing with one another, finally purpose and direction began to take shape. There was excitement with the program committee about a Spring Meeting with a theme of "Built To Last". The committee was confident that Mattaponi BC was ready, willing, and able to host the MTBA Gathering and Fellowship Time. Once again, Tammy Faulkner had provided gifted leadership as chair. At this point in the planning process, they just trusted the Lord to provide and bless the gathering as only He could.

On Sunday afternoon, April 23, it was time for the 2023 MTBA Spring Meeting, our DOM was still in the hospital recovering from his surgery, and the meeting participants were in place and ready to go. I think it is fair to say that this year's MTBA Spring Meeting exceeded all of the program committee's expectations. Mattaponi BC did a beautiful job of hosting our meeting. The presence of the Lord could be felt by all in attendance. It was almost electric. The congregational singing was alive and uplifting. There were over 100 persons in attendance. The mission reports were inspirational. The evening message by our own Rev. Edward Harrow, Sr. was powerful as always.

Over the next two weeks, Barbara and I began to receive lots of very positive feedback about the meeting. Comments like, "It was the best associational meeting I have ever attended." "The meeting was so uplifting and everyone seemed to have a good time enjoying the company of one another." "The congregational singing reminded me of the singing in the church I grew up." "It was so wonderful."

I want to take this opportunity to thank the Program Committee (Tammy Faulkner, Eniko Jordan, Susan Brooks, Stephen Rountree, Peni Roberts, and Dale Saunders) for their outstanding work on this MTBA Spring gathering. They are a joy to watch work together. I also want to thank Pastor Stephen Rountree and the members of Mattaponi BC for the beautiful way in which they hosted this meeting. I am so thankful that they are a part of our MTBA family.

*Eddie*

***Thank You MTBA Family***

*Over the past four weeks all of my doctors and nurses have said basically the same thing, "Eddie, you are doing amazingly well. You are definitely ahead of the recovery time table." I feel strongly that the main reason for that assessment is due to so many prayers for me and Kathy. I am feeling better and a little stronger with each passing week. The doctor has given me the OK to drive a little and that has been a big help around the house. I will never be able to express adequately my appreciation for your prayers, cards, and words of encouragement. I am looking forward to the day when I can return to the office. Until then, I continue to rely on Barbara to hold down the fort and keep up the day to day operation of our MTBA office. Thank you so much for all you have done for me during my surgery and recovery.*

*Eddie Heath, Director of Missions*

## RAMP-IT UP MISSION PROJECTS

MTBA Community Ministries Team of volunteers have built additional ramps for people having difficulty with steps. God bless these servant workers! To God Be the Glory!



MTBA purchased an aluminum ramp, installed, and put to good use.



*Thank you from a Grateful Homeowner who received repair of their ramp:*

*"Thanks to the wonderful team that came to our home to repair our handicap ramp. We really enjoyed meeting these wonderful workers. God bless each and everyone and the MTBA. Please continue to do this wonderful service."*

**Save the date Interdenominational hymn sing COCAPRAW—Thursday July 6 at 6:30 at Lower United Methodist Church.** COCAPRAW stands for Come One, Come All--Praise, Reflect, and Worship. It is lay sponsored. It will be a wonderful evening that will re-enforce our intimate relationship with our Triune God and unite us as we continue to experience life's trials and are reassured that God loves, will never leave, and assures total victory for us. Of course an agnostic friend or two would also be welcomed!! It will be an evening of joy and comfort brought to us through the Holy Spirit. Please come and bring others. Call John Ryland at 757-871-1224 for more information and to volunteer to read one of several brief Scriptural passages. Group songs and prayerful reflection in the midst.

## MTBA UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	EVENT
May 21 - 28, 2023			MTBA Week of Prayer Missions' Offering
June 12, 2023	7:00 PM	Farnham BC (Farnham)	Prayer Gathering
June 20, 2023	10:30 AM	TBD	Pastors' Conference
June 26, 2023	7:00 PM	Saluda BC	Executive Committee meeting
July 10, 2023	7:00 PM	St. Stephens BC	Prayer Gathering
August 14, 2023	7:00 PM	First BC of Harmony Village	Prayer Gathering
September 11, 2023	7:00 PM	New Hope Fellowship	Prayer Gathering
September 19, 2023	10:30 AM	TBD	Pastors' Conference
September 25, 2023	7:00 PM	Saluda BC	Executive Committee meeting
October 9, 2023	7:00 PM	New Friendship BC (Heathsville)	Prayer Gathering
October 17, 2023	10:30 AM	TBD	Pastors' Conference
October 22, 2023	3:00 PM	Beale Memorial BC, (19622 Tidewater Trail, Tappahannock)	MTBA Fall meeting
November 13, 2023	7:00 PM	Spring Hill BC	Prayer Gathering
December 11, 2023	7:00 PM	Mattaponi BC	Prayer Gathering

MTBA honored our churches' **Administrative Professionals** on May 10 at a luncheon at Nick's Spaghetti & Steak House, Shackelfords. Our guest speaker, Annette Greenwood, Urbanna BC, spoke inspiring words saying as professional women we can worship God as we work through excellence, integrity, and being ambitious (obedient in all He gives us.) Everyone was given a gift from MTBA. It was a great day to catch up with one another and to make new friends.

**Thank you, Administrative Professionals,** as you serve God by serving your Church.



Annette Greenwood (Urbanna BC), Barbara Bareford (MTBA Office Administrator), Juanita Glascock (Zoar BC), Nell Robinson (Urbanna BC), Cathy Rowe (Mathews BC), Kathy Rodgers (Saluda BC), Ann Revere (White Stone BC), and Betty K. Kennon (MTBA Treasurer).

MTBA SPRING GATHERING, APRIL 23 at MATTAPONI BC



Historic graveyard tours, Betty K. Kennon, MTBA Treasurer, Brenda Armistead, MTBA Clerk.



Rev. Edward P. Harrow, Sr., (middle) guest speaker, with BGAV staff members: Brian Williams (left) and Karl Heilman (right).



Food and Fellowship



Pictures from **Hope for Appalachia** boxes' delivery, late March, to children in Kentucky schools. Pastor Stephen Rountree (left) (Mattaponi BC) giving Bibles, Dora Belknap (below) (Poroporone BC) telling about Jesus and His love, and Debbie Jones (r) (Poroporone BC) preparing to hand out Hope boxes. Thank you Servants!



**MTBA Spring Gathering, April 23, at Mattaponi BC**



Rev. Stephen Rountree, Rev. Doug Davis, Tammy Faulkner, Rev. Edward Harrow, Sr., (guest speaker).



Sue Smith, Dale & Nancy Saunders, Jim Burns, Hunter Owens.



Becca & Chuck Rasmussen, Donnie Reese, Dora Belknap



## MTBA Week of Prayer for Associational Missions, May 21—28

The Week of Prayer love offerings fund MTBA missions projects such as Hope for Appalachia, Ramps, Rise Against Hunger, and other mission projects that the MTBA Community Ministries Team chooses to participate in. In February 2023 MTBA packed 1,200 Hope for Appalachia boxes. During 2022 MTBA built/installed 11 ramps, and so far in 2023 have built/installed 5 ramps. We also purchased 2 aluminum ramps that are currently being used.

If you feel led to give, please make your check payable to your church or to MTBA. Please put on memo line: MTBA Week of Prayer. 100% of your contribution goes directly to these mission projects. Thank you for serving Him through your prayers and mission offering.

### Ministry Position Available:

**Claybrook Baptist Church** in Weems is currently searching for a musician to play the piano and/or the organ. Responsibilities would include playing for our Sunday morning service at 11:00 a.m. and possibly choir practice. Compensation is commensurate with experience and availability. If interested, please contact Jimmy Kellum at (804) 761-0673.

Marissa Sanchez (pictured) is WMUV Ministry Assistant serving on the Eastern Shore. She was the special speaker for **MTBA WMU meeting** on April 29 at Saluda BC. Her message was from Matthew 10:42. Marissa said “giving a drink of water is something that you and I can both do. God gives us this opportunity. God calls you & me to give that cup of water.” She spoke of her work on Eastern Shore, as well as at Standing Rock. A very inspiring message, and we thank God for her. A special offering was taken that totaled \$355. and will be sent to BGAV Disaster Response.



### 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.heath@bgav.org  
 barbara@midtidewaterbaptist.org

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