



Merry Christmas



By the time you get this newsletter, Christmas Day will be just around the corner. Barbara Bareford and I want to take this opportunity to wish each of you a very Merry Christmas. Our wish is that the great Christmas themes like Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love will find many expressions in your Christmas activities. Our wish is that you will have opportunities to spend quality time with people that you love and who love you. That you will create memories that will continue to bless and warm your hearts even years from now.

As Barbara and I celebrate Christmas 2023, we will certainly be giving thanks for the privilege of serving on the staff of the Mid-Tidewater Baptist Association. It is such a joy for us to know you, to work with you on Kingdom projects, to hear the stories of what God is doing in our 30 MTBA churches, as well as individual lives. You are such a blessing to us, and we thank God for each of you.

I am sure Christmas 2023 will be busy for most of us with preparations, shopping, cooking, and travel. In the midst of our busyness, I want to encourage all of us to find some quiet time to read the Christmas story and to spend some quality time listening to the voice of God speaking into our heart. It has the potential to be one of the high points in your 2023 Christmas experience.

Merry Christmas From
Eddie and Barbara

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2024, HERMITAGE BC

PACKING DATE FOR Hope for Appalachia Hope Boxes

- Now is the time to begin praying for our **Hope for Appalachia School Box Mission Project**.
- Save the **February 10th** date so that you can **participate** in the **Packing Event** at Hermitage BC.
- Now is the time to think about your **financial gift** toward the **Hope for Appalachia School Boxes**.
 - **Our Hope for Appalachia Offering goal is \$18,000.**
 - If you have any questions, please contact the MTBA Office at 804-758-4385.



“THOSE WERE THE DAYS MY FRIEND”..... Some of you may be too young to remember that popular song from 1968. MTBA is bringing back those days. Pictured is the Association Choir from MTBA Fall meeting in October 2021 at Newington BC. We will again have an Association Choir featured at the MTBA Spring meeting on April 28, 2024, at Gwynn’s Island BC. If you would like to sing praises to our Lord, join us by contacting Tammy Faulkner, Program Committee Chair, (e-mail: miles.creek3@yahoo.com) or cell 804-815-6373. We will have a couple practices, please contact Tammy asap so we can advise you when & where practices will be.

CHURCHES ARE RE-BUILDING! To God Be The Glory!

New Hope Memorial BC



Lower King & Queen BC



SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2024, at 10 am at HERMITAGE BC
HOPE FOR APPALACHIA PACKING

(snow make-up date: Saturday, February 17, 2024)

MTBA will be packing 1,200 boxes. All items to be packed will be provided, as well as lunch. Please mark February 10, 2024, to come pack boxes that will be delivered to children in schools in the Appalachian Mountains in March 2024.



“A LITTLE GOES A LONG WAY”

Have you planned for months to have the biggest and best Christmas ever? Sometimes our best plans run into problems. Do any of the following scenarios sound familiar?

1. You get your expensive Douglas fir tree home and find that it will not fit through the door.
2. After 4 hours at 350 degrees, you still haven't figured out how, with your bad back, you will wrestle a hot, 25-pound turkey out of the oven.
3. Your lavish Christmas dinner begins at the same time as America's Pro-Football Game of the Week kicks off.

Why do we always associate bigger with better?

“A little goes a long way” is a familiar saying we apply to all sorts of things: spice, garlic, logic, flattery, perfume, jewelry, makeup... the list goes on and on.

But beyond our kitchens, closets, philosophies and compliments, every little thing we do can go a long way in God's hands. Small things make a big difference, especially when done consistently over time.

Consider Jesus Himself, born in a manger in the little town of Bethlehem, who grew up to save the entire world. God's greatest plan began with something small as the following verses from Luke 2 tell us:

“For unto you is born this day in the City of David, a Savior which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you: Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger.”

During Jesus' time on earth, He demonstrated the importance of “a little”.

He valued the little things: hairs on our heads, birds in the air, and flowers in the field.

He noticed the little gestures: a slight touch of His garment, a small tax collector perched in a tree, and a widow giving up her two coins.

He served in little ways: washing feet, holding children, cooking fish.

He rewarded little deeds: the woman who washed his feet with her hair, the healed leper who said, “thank you” and the woman by the well who gave Him something to drink.

Nothing was too insignificant for the Savior of the world. So why do we regularly consider bigger to be better?

We want our lives to count, but we feel miniscule, like our ordinary, everyday moments will never amount to anything. We take stock of the families we were born into, the towns we grew up in and the positions we serve in, then determine we are of little value in His Kingdom. If we aren't careful, we can start to believe that who we are, where we are and what we are doing don't really matter.

But God sees and values every little thing that we do. We can impact others while standing in the checkout line at the grocery store, sitting on the sidelines at the high school ball game, while walking the dog or talking to a colleague at work.

Believe it or not, when we partner with God, He can use even the most minute things to affect eternity in ways far beyond what we can imagine. People like you and me can accomplish great things in our everyday moments by offering all that we are and all that we have to God.

Little things aren't little to God. He rejoices in what is right, not necessarily what is big. So, let's be faithful in the small things, begin where we are, do what we can do and leave the results to God. When we do, I believe that we will discover that a significant life is simpler, and smaller, than we think.



RAMP IT UP: Four additional ramps have been built since our last newsletter in September. Thirteen ramps have been built in 2023. God bless the servant hearted workers by their faith and works to help people who are unable to navigate steps. Thank you, MTBA, for your generous financial gifts to MTBA Week of Prayer offering, of which 100% goes towards these projects.



THANK YOU FROM
RAMP HOMEOWNERS:

“Many thanks to each and everyone of you. Take care and bless you all.”

“Thank everybody for all they did to build ramp and appreciate it so very much!”





Newington BC celebrated their 150th anniversary on October 1, 2023. Pictured Eddie Heath (MTBA DOM and BGAV Transition Facilitator) who presented a BGAV plaque to Pastor Chris Grella, Newington BC. (left to right)

MTBA PASTOR/SPOUSE APPRECIATION CHRISTMAS BANQUET —

December 19, 2023, at 6 pm at Olivia's In The Village, Gloucester. Please RSVP by December 12 to (barbara@midtidewaterbaptist.org).



MTBA FALL GATHERING, OCTOBER 22, 2023, AT BEALE MEMORIAL BC (pictures below):



Pastor Rick Hudock, Beale Mem. BC.

Eddie Heath welcomes Claybrook BC, Pastor Dennis Martin, into MTBA.

Roy Smith, incoming Moderator, signs MTBA Bible.

Mary Jo Cumbia, Annette Greenwood, Terri Townsend read names of Saints who have gone home in the last year. (left to right)

STAY CONNECTED

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

MTBA is comprised of 30 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

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barbara@midtidewaterbaptist.org

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

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