

**The TIDINGS** **November 2024**  
**Mid-Tidewater Baptist Association**  
*Serving Cooperating Sharing*



*A Season of Thanksgiving and Celebration*



I know it is hard to believe, but the holiday season is just a few weeks away. I am not complaining because this time of the year is one of my favorite times of the year. It is the perfect time for thanksgiving and

celebration and that is something that I always enjoying doing. Barbara and I have a lot for which we are thankful, and one of the things that is on the top of our Thanksgiving list is our MTBA Family.

Hardly a week goes by without someone telling us how much they appreciate our work and are thankful that God has called us to serve in the MTBA. Words matter and your words of love and encouragement are a source of joy and blessing. Barbara and I count it a privilege to pray for our MTBA churches and this Thanksgiving season is just a reminder to us of how thankful we are for our MTBA family.

This is also the season for celebration. And if there has ever been a reason for celebrating, it is the fact that a Savior was born who is Christ the Lord. For most of the world, the 2024 election dominated the news cycle, but for Christians nothing will ever surpass the announcement that God is with us in the person of Jesus Christ. It was celebrated 2,000 years ago by angels, shepherds, and wise men and this good news continues to be celebrated today by Christ followers all over the world.

Barbara and I look forward to celebrating the Christmas season with you again this year. Our prayer is that our hearts will be filled with joy and peace, that we will lift our voices in praise and adoration as we sing the great carols of our faith, and the Christ we love and serve will be offered the praise and adoration He so richly deserves. Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas to all of our MTBA friends.

**YOU ARE THE BEST!**

*Eddie*

*And*

*Barbara*

## *Reflections On The 2024 MTBA Fall Meeting*

The feedback on the MTBA Fall Meeting has been very positive. Our MTBA Program Committee is very thankful for that positive feedback. One of their goals was to create a gathering that will be both inspirational and interesting. As I reflect on our gathering there are several thoughts that come to mind, and I want to take this opportunity to share them in this newsletter article.

- ♦ The Olivet family did an wonderful job of hosting our annual fall meeting. As we gathered we were welcomed in such a warm and inviting manner. The meal was delicious, and the attendees could tell that a lot of thought had been given to feeding over 100 people with limited space and time. It was delicious and served in such an efficient way. Thank you Olivet Family, it was a joy to gather at your church.
- ♦ Thank you Program Committee for all the hours spent preparing and planning this year's gathering. We were able to complete all of the associational business in a timely fashion which left adequate time for Pastor John Seltzer and Jack Lythgoe to share their experiences on the Kensington, Pa. mission trip. This project allowed all of our 30 churches an opportunity to participate at some level and to see our efforts come to fruition. Thank you John for giving our association an opportunity to walk with you as you responded to God's call.
- ♦ I want to thank all of the folks who serve on our standing committees and action teams. In order for the MTBA to be a dynamic and exciting association, we must have volunteers who are willing to serve on one of our committees or teams. The MTBA is not Eddie and Barbara. The MTBA is the members of our 30 MTBA churches working in association with one another, day and night, week after week, to do the work Jesus has called us to do through the Holy Spirit. We are a blessed association to have so many good people serving in the MTBA.
- ♦ When I think about all that goes into pulling an associational meeting together, I am reminded how fortunate we are to have someone like Barbara Bareford to serve as the MTBA Office Manager. Barbara spends days and days gathering information for the annual meeting program and then formatting this information in such an effective manner in the program booklets. Her attention to details is invaluable. Her motivation is to put a program in the hands of those attending that will be both appealing to the eye and informative. She is such a gift to the MTBA but especially for our two annual meetings. Thank you Barbara. What would we do without you helping all of us in our MTBA work?

Spring Meeting 2025 will be at Farnham BC on April 27, 2025

Fall Meeting 2025 will be at New Hope Memorial BC on October 19, 2025

**Our MTBA Servant Hearted workers continue to “love their neighbor as thyself” by building ramps for people having difficulty entering and leaving their homes.**



(connection with Corrottoman BC)



(connection with Mathews BC)



(connection with Glebe Landing BC)



(connection with Poroporone BC)

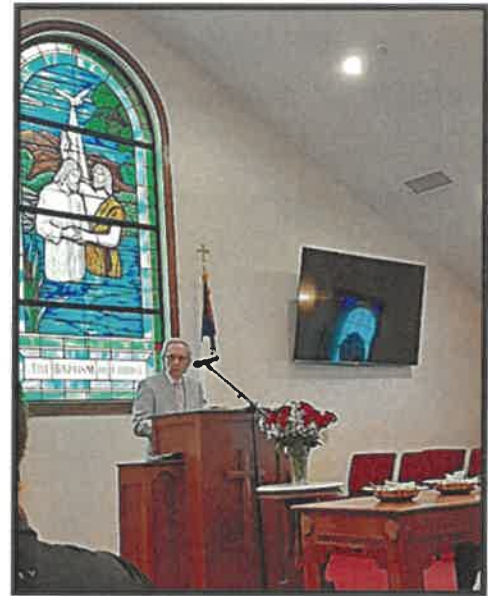
### **THANK YOU FOR A RAMP BUILT:**

*“The team did a great job installing the ramp. I wanted to say thanks for your great help in coordinating this and helping make the arrangements for something that will be an extraordinary help. I appreciate this ministry of the Mid-Tidewater Baptist Association and thank the Lord for you and the crew and everyone else who played a part in meeting this need. God bless you.”*





Pastor Nita May and several members of **Saluda BC** attended Antioch BC (daughter church of Saluda BC) historical marker dedication on Aug. 3.



**New Hope Memorial** building dedication, Sept. 22, Pastor Dan Grantham (in new building since April 28, 2024).



Eddie Heath presented Pastor Ross Davis a plaque from BGAV in recognition of **Spring Hill BC** 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Homecoming on Sept. 22.



**Rev. John Seltzer** (dressed in red shirt) was presented with a check from MTBA churches for **Kensington mission trip**. Also pictured standing (Betty K. Kennon, MTBA Treasurer), & (Eddie Heath, DOM) on Sept. 30.



**Gwynn's Island BC** 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Oct. 6.



**Lower King & Queen BC**, in new building Nov. 17.



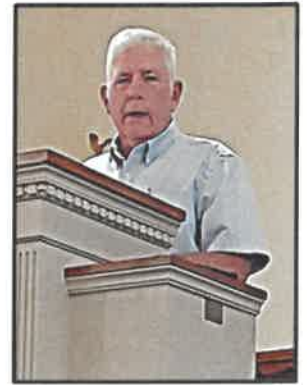
## MTBA FALL MEETING, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2024, AT OLIVET BC



Rev. Shane Gallagher, Pastor, Olivet BC.



Tammy Faulkner, Program Comm. Chair



Gene Nuttall, member of Community Ministries Action Group, recommended we do Hope For Appalachia packing in 2025, and this was approved.



Betty K. Kennon, presented the 2025 budget, on behalf of the Finance Comm., and this budget passed.



Emily Bailey, Administrative Committee Chair, presented Administrative report, recommending we dedicate the MTBA 2025 Annual to Dr. Ed Jordan (Gwynn's Island BC) and Tom Brooks (Hermitage BC & MTBA Disaster Response Coordinator). This recommendation was approved.



Eddie Heath (DOM) (left) presented gavel to Roy Smith, outgoing Moderator (Spring Hill BC).



Eddie Heath watches as Rev. Brian Kramer, incoming Moderator, (Mathews BC) signs MTBA Bible.



Rev. John Seltzer & Jack Lythgoe (Corrottoman BC) spoke of their experiences of Kensington mission trip. Jack Lythgoe also sung special music.



Great fellowship and delicious food, hosted by the good folks of Olivet BC. Thank you!



(Eddie Heath, MTBA DOM) (Brenda Armistead, MTBA Clerk), (Barbara Bareford, MTBA Administrative Assistant), (John Bareford, MTBA Historian), (Betty K. Kennon, MTBA Treasurer), and (Roy Smith, MTBA outgoing Moderator). (left to right)

**CALENDAR OF MTBA EVENTS:**

| DATE                 | TIME     | CHURCH                                  | EVENT   |
|----------------------|----------|---|---|
| Thursday, December 5 | 6:30 PM  | Saluda BC                               | MTBA Community Ministries Action Group meeting        |
| Tuesday, December 10 | 12:15 PM | Saluda BC                               | MTBA Christmas lunch for Administrative Professionals |
| Monday, December 16  | 6:00 PM  | Beale (central located church)          | MTBA Prayer Gathering                                 |
| Tuesday, December 17 | 6:00 PM  | Olivia's In The Village,<br>OGloucester | MTBA Christmas Pastor/Spouse Appreciation Banquet     |

**2025**

|  |         |   |                                       |
|--|---------|---|---------------------------------------|
| Monday, January 27                     | 12 noon | Nicks's Spaghetti & Steak House, Shacklefords | MTBA Administrative Committee meeting |
| Monday, January 27                     | 7:00 PM | Saluda BC                                     | MTBA Executive Committee meeting      |
| February/March (date to be determined) |         | TBD   | HOPE FOR APPALACHIA PACKING           |

**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.

The mission of the Mid-Tidewater Baptist Association of Virginia, Inc. is to provide the means through which member churches cooperate and join together in spreading God's Word and serving those in need.

- 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) [eddie.heath@bgav.org](mailto:eddie.heath@bgav.org)  
 Barbara Bareford, Administrative Assistant [barbara@midtidewaterbaptist.org](mailto: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