

The Children of Appalachia

It is not easy for most of us to imagine what it is like to be a child growing up in poverty like what we see in the Appalachian region. Those of us who have heard some of the heart breaking stories from the children of Appalachia have said "We must respond", and we have. For the past 3 years volunteers from all over the MTBA have gathered on a Saturday morning at Hermitage Baptist Church to pack 1200 Sterilite boxes with school and hygiene supplies for these underprivileged children. Not only have we shared these tangible items with these school age children, our volunteers who deliver the gift boxes also have opportunities to share the love of Jesus with many of these children. And many of these kids receive Jesus into their hearts as their Savior. This fact alone made it worth all the work, all the monies given, all the travel miles, and all the time that was spent.



Important Things To Keep In Mind

1. It is imperative that we immerse this mission effort with our prayers. It is foolish to think we can reach all of our goals through our own work and ingenuity. It is in our partnership with the Holy Spirit that we can not only make a physical difference, but we can make an eternal and spiritual difference, as well, in the lives of the kids.
2. It's the generosity of our MTBA families and churches each year that allow us to cover the costs associated with purchasing these items needed for the Hope For Appalachia Mission effort. The cost is between \$15,000. and \$18,000. Every year we have voted to work with Pastor Mike Dodson, who leads Hope, and we have raised the needed monies. If you and your church would like to make a financial gift, it is very easy. Just send a check to the MTBA and put on the MEMO Line: Hope. The monies will go into our Mission Account and used to cover the costs associated with Hope for Appalachia.

3. **SAVE THE DATE**

The packing event will take place at Hermitage Baptist Church on **Saturday, March 1, 2025, at 10:00 AM**. No one is too young and no one is too old. There is something for everyone to do as we pack these 1200 Sterilite boxes and then pack them into shipping boxes and then load the boxes into a huge Disaster Relief covered truck. Lunch will be served by the Hermitage folks, there will be great fellowship, and there will be an undeniable presence of the Holy Spirit in our midst.

Looking forward to this great day of missions and advancing the Kingdom of God. Hope to see you there.

Eddie Heath

MTBA Director of Missions



Prayer Team Creates A New Gathering Time

For many years the MTBA Prayer Team has been hosting a prayer gathering one night a month. The gathering usually took place on a Monday or Tuesday night at 7 PM at one of our MTBA churches. It was not unusual for 20 or more people to gather for one of those prayer gatherings where the focus was on the needs and concerns of our MTBA association of churches. Of course when COVID came our way, things changed at every level of our MTBA churches and that included our monthly prayer gatherings. Even though COVID is now in our rear view mirror, we have not returned to the number of people who gather for prayer each month. Sometimes it is only the prayer team members who gather to pray for our MTBA and local schools.

The prayer team felt that maybe the time had come to try something different which might make it easier for folks to gather and pray with the MTBA Prayer Team. So beginning in February the Prayer Team will host a prayer gathering **on the third Monday of each month at 10:00 am at Saluda BC**. The prayer gathering will last about an hour and everyone is invited to join the prayer team as they pray for the needs of our association and communities. The team is hoping that gathering during the morning will be a time that works for more people. Please contact Terri Townsend, who chairs the Prayer Team, if you have any questions (804-413-4049).

The chair of the MTBA Prayer Team and Eddie also met to review the **MTBA CHURCHES PRAYING FOR OUR SCHOOLS** initiative. Because we have two new churches that have joined the MTBA, and we want to include them in this effort to pray for our schools, and the fact that we even have some schools that are now sharing the same building, we felt it was time to make some minor changes. We have also tried to address some of the requests by our churches to be partnered with schools are a better geographical match. Since the number of MTBA churches and number of schools in our geographical footprint are not the same, we have had to be creative in our matching decisions. Thank you for your understanding. We have included an insert that is the new 2025 church and school pairings. Please let Eddie or Terri Townsend (804-413-4049) know if you have any questions.

SAVE THE DATE

MTBA Spring Meeting

4:00 PM

April 27, 2025

Urbanna Baptist Church

MTBA CHURCHES PRAYING FOR OUR SCHOOLS—2025

CHURCHES	PRAY FOR THIS SCHOOL	8 COUNTIES
Beale Memorial	Essex High & (Richmond County Elementary/Middle, Warsaw)	Essex & Richmond
Beech Grove	Abingdon Elementary, 7087 Powhatan Dr, Hayes	Gloucester
Beulah	Achilles Elementary, 9306 Guinea Rd, Hayes	Gloucester
Bruington	King & Queen Elementary	King & Queen
Claybrook	Lancaster High School	Lancaster
Corrottoman	Lancaster Elementary	Lancaster
Farnham	Rappahannock High	Richmond
First BC of Harmony Village		
Glebe Landing	Tappahannock Elementary	Essex
Gwynn's Island	Petsworth Elementary	Gloucester
Harmony Grove	Middlesex Elementary	Middlesex
Hermitage	Middlesex High	Middlesex
Lower King & Queen	James Carey Intermediate, Tappahannock	Essex
Macedonia	Mathews Elementary	Mathews
Mathews	Mathews High	Mathews
Mattaponi	Central High	King & Queen
New Freedom Worship Center		
New Friendship	Northumberland Elementary	Northumberland
New Hope Fellowship	Northumberland Middle	Northumberland
New Hope Memorial	Peasley Middle, 2885 Hickory Fork Rd,	Gloucester
Newington	Gloucester High	Gloucester
Olivet	Page Middle, 5198 T C Walker Rd	Gloucester
Poroporone	Botetourt Elementary	Gloucester
Saluda	St. Clair Walker Middle	Middlesex
Spring Hill	Bethel Elementary, 2991 Hickory Fork Rd	Gloucester
St. Stephens	Lawson-Marriot Elementary	King & Queen
Urbanna	Christchurch	Middlesex
Westville	Mathews Elementary	Mathews
White Stone	Northumberland High	Northumberland
Zoar	Thomas Hunter Middle School	Mathews

APPRECIATION BANQUETS



MTBA hosted our Churches' Administrative Professionals to a Christmas Lunch on December 10 at Saluda BC. It was a great time of sharing ideas, networking, and enjoying each other as we each minister at our respective churches. A gift of appreciation was given. We look forward to gathering again on April 22, 2025, in recognition of National Administrative Professionals' Day.



MTBA Pastors/Spouses Christmas Banquet was held on December 19 at Olivia's In The Village. Great fellowship and food, sharing together.



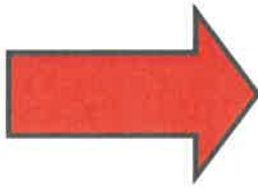
RAMP UPDATE

A ramp was built in January 2025 for someone unable to navigate steps entering and leaving their home. Thank you Servant Hearted Workers! **In 2024 there were 11 ramps built.** Since inception of Ramp-It Up Ministry in 2020, there have been **45 homeowners** who were blessed with ramps. Your offering to "Week of Prayer" help us to continue this much needed ministry.



(connection with Poroporone BC)

MTBA EVENTS



DATE	TIME	CHURCH	EVENT
Tuesday, February 18	10:30 AM	Saluda BC	Pastors' Conference
Saturday, February 22	10:00 AM	Spring Hill BC	MTBA WMU meeting
Saturday, March 1	10:00 AM	Hermitage BC	MTBA Hope For Appalachia Packing
Monday, March 17	10:00 AM	Saluda BC	Prayer Gathering
Tuesday, March 18	10:30 AM	??	Pastors' Conference
Monday, March 31	12 noon	Nick's Spaghetti	Administrative Committee meeting
Monday, March 31	7:00 PM	Saluda BC	Executive Committee meeting
Tuesday, April 15	10:30 AM	??	Pastors' Conference
Monday, April 21	10:00 AM	Saluda BC	Prayer Gathering
Sunday, April 27	4:00 PM	Urbanna BC	MTBA Spring Gathering
Thursday, May 1	6:30-7:45 pm	Newington	National Day of Prayer
May 18 - May 25			MTBA Week of Prayer Missions' Offering

STAY CONNECTED

MTBA, 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)
Barbara Bareford, Administrative Assistant

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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