



Middle District Baptist Association

Starting and Strengthening Churches...

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SOCIAL MEDIA



BLOG



[Ministry Assistants](#)

IMPORTANT CALENDAR DATES TO REMEMBER

May

- 2 National Day of Prayer
- 12 Mother's Day
- 19 Spring Meeting, 3pm
- 27 Memorial Day Holiday

June

- 1 Deadline to register for SHRMP

COMMUNICATOR

May 2024

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE MDBA



MDBA Spring Meeting
Sunday, May 19 - 3:00 pm
James River Community Church

2440 Hancroft Dr,
 Midlothian, VA 23113

The Leadership Committee of MDBA is united in bringing James River Community Church into full membership of our Association. We invite you to join us in a time of fellowship as we vote on their inclusion to MDBA and take a tour of their building. You will also hear the latest of all the great things God is doing in and through MDBA!

Leadership Team Update

Last week, the Middle District Leadership Team met for a three hour **mini-retreat**. We began by spending time reflecting on the positive and negative legacies of associational life, whether that be at the local, state or national level. We also discussed some of the **current day trends** happening within associations. We concluded our time with an exercise where we imagined it was 2029 and asked ourselves, ***“What is it we want to look back on and celebrate five years from now.”***

I left the meeting feeling encouraged and honored to work alongside such an awesome group of people. Their hearts for strengthening churches and proclaiming the good news of Jesus throughout Central VA together was refreshing. Over the next few months, I will be meeting with the members of our leadership team in preparation for another meeting in July where we will **expound on our learnings**, build on the strengths of our legacy and discern how we can best mobilize and function to maximize our Kingdom impact into the future. On behalf of the leadership team, we would welcome your prayers for divine guidance and wisdom.

With you on the journey,

John Sawyer, Executive Director



2024 LOCAL MISSIONS OFFERING

OF THE MIDDLE DISTRICT ASSOCIATION



Bridging RVA: Connecting individuals, groups and causes to advance common good in our community. Beds for Kids initiative, teacher appreciation and a community-wide Christmas dinner are just a few of the ministries this local non-profit coordinates.



Christmas Store: Each year the churches within our association donate toys, clothing and many other items to bless those in need at Christmas. Volunteers also have the opportunity to share the Gospel and pray for each family.



Grace Home: Local ministry created to provide support services for young women facing an unplanned pregnancy, equipping them with the knowledge and tools to have a successful and more abundant life.



MENO: A local residential recovery community for those affected by drug and alcohol addiction.



M40 Automotive: Rebuilding Cars - Changing Lives: Local ministry offering a hand-up to those facing difficulties with their vehicle, helping with repairs, and when circumstances and resources allow give a car away to an individual or family in need.



Missions Scholarship: A scholarship to help individuals attending MDBA churches with mission trip expenses.



SHRMP: South Hampton Roads Mission Project is a hands on fun day time camp experience for the kids in Hampton Roads low income areas. Youth and adults come together to share the love of Jesus in fun and tangible ways.

SHRMP MISSION PROJECT UPDATE

Cost: \$200*

Dates: June 22 - 29

Register by June 1

Join in with other groups in MDBA to serve the community of Hampton Road. We are **collecting new/used children's books as well as hygiene supply bags** for this project.

Please bring to the MDBA office by June 13. Pick up also available by calling our office, 276-8481 to schedule.

***Ask about scholarships!**



Peer Ministry Groups

During my 15 months as your executive director, I've come to value the strong relational bonds between pastors and churches in the middle district.

One of the places where I experience this happening often is within our groups for senior pastors. The goal for these groups is to create a safe space where a pastor can find belonging, encouragement, friendship and growth within a community of their peers. I'm thrilled to share we now have three groups for senior pastors up and running.

Over the past six months, we've been talking about the possibility of creating ministry specific peer groups for other areas of ministry. After hearing back from several of you who are interested and/or curious about the groups, we will be begin offering ministry specific peer groups for pastors and ministers in the areas of worship, students and children this Fall.

How important are these groups? I'll let a few of the senior pastors answer this question:

"This group means the world to me and has greatly contributed to my well being in ministry." Pastor Nate Travis, Chester Baptist

"The Thursday Pastor Group is a top priority for me. I make sure to protect the time on my calendar and plan my schedule around it." Pastor David Benjamin, Winfree Church

If you would like more information about these groups, please reach out to Brenda or I:

jsawyer@mdba.org, brenda@mdba.org or 276-8481

- John Sawyer





CENTRAL VA RACEWAY MINISTRIES

THANK YOU!!

I would like to thank all the volunteers for helping in this ministry to the fans each time we have a race at Richmond Raceway. Also thanks to Helen Carter who heads up the Kids Corner and Debbie Carter Rasmussen for coordinating the Chaplain ministry and cart ministry.

*Thank you, ladies of the Dover, River City, and Middle District Associations for the cookies/eggs/prayers for this ministry. We look forward to the **next races on August 10 and 11, 2024**. If you would like to volunteer please call me, and I would be glad to help you know what to do to help. Thank you.*

*Sincerely, Charles Ward
CVRM Volunteer Coordinator, 804-317-0094*

A Prayer for America

Father in Heaven,
We, the people, in the
land of the free and
the home of the brave,
desperately need You.
Oh that we would leave our ways
of seeking to be blessed
and instead seek to bless others.
We beg for Your guidance and wisdom
for our leaders.
We ask You to protect our land
from enemies, both within and without.
And we praise you for the freedom
we have through the blood of Your Son.
May Your plan be the desire of our nation.
Amen

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Church Staff Birthdays

(Includes church staff current, retired and spouses)

- 1 Jeannette Pendleton, Retired
- 4 Teresa McConnell Chester
- 16 Beth Stoddard, PCC
- 20 Erik Davidson, Lyndale
- 25 Paul Myers, PCC
- 26 Ben Dillenback, PCC
- 27 Nelson Taylor, Retired
- 28 Becky Hopkins, Branch's

**If your birthday has not been included, let us know!*



Staff Updates

Mt. Hermon Church recently voted on Rev. Jay Lynn as pastor effective May 1, after serving as Interim.

SYMPATHY

Our prayers and sympathies to...



Jana and Pastor David Benjamin (Winfrey) on the death of Jana's father, Wendell McClinton.

Becky Hopkins (Branch's) on the passing of her father, Jake Matthes.