

Middle District Baptist Association

Starting and Strengthening Churches...

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SOCIAL MEDIA















CALENDAR FYI... <u>January</u>

Happy New Year!
Martin Luther King,
Jr. Holiday- Office Closed
Meet & Greet

February

5 Called Business Mtg.14 Valentines Day



COMMUNICATOR

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE MDBA



We are praying you all have a blessed 2023 and remember to look for where God is working and JOIN HIM!

January 2023

Executive Director Search Update & Special Called Business Meeting

Our Search Committee has done a great job and has decided on a final candidate* to present as the next Executive Director of Middle District. Now the time has come for the people in the Association to get to know and vote on this candidate whom the Search Committee, along with the Leadership Committee, feel God would have lead our Association. Here are the two meetings you will want to attend:

Meet & Greet Luncheon

Thursday, January 26, Noon – 1:30 pm Winfree Memorial Baptist Church

You are invited to enjoy a "meet and greet" luncheon for all ministers/ staff and other church leadership on January 26. There you will get to know the candidate, hear his ministry testimony, ask him questions and discover why he feels God is leading him to Middle District.

The candidate will be presented and voted upon at a --

Special Called Business Meeting

Sunday, February 5, 3:00 pm Tomahawk Baptist Church

*The name of the candidate and his ministry bio may be viewed on Middle District's website, www.mdba.org, beginning Wednesday, January 25.

Almost, But Not Yet

These are exciting days in Middle District's ministry. Within a few weeks, the new Executive Director will be presented, voted on, and begin serving. Please carefully read this edition of *The Communicator* and watch your email's inbox for emails alerting you to details regarding the call of the new Director. That information will also be posted on our website: www.mdba.org.

In the meantime, please feel free to contact me with any needs you or your church may have. (<u>Jim@mdba.org</u> or 804-239-0996.)

I'm almost gone, but not yet.

While I am now technically retired, I am enthusiastically serving you as the "Acting Executive Director", until the new person is on board. A number of our churches are in transition, and I want them, and all of you to know, that Middle District is here to serve you – you do not have to wait until the new Director begins. Also, some of you have gone out of the way to ask if I would provide orientation for the new Director. The answer is "yes," and will do so with a sense of joy.

One last thing: let me say "thanks," ...again.

As I look back on the events of 2022, I am grateful beyond words, for the way you have honored me these last three months. I never, ever envisioned my retirement eliciting the response that it has. You honored and surprised me by secretly sponsoring holes in my name at our annual mission's golf tournament. Later, a large number of you attended my retirement recognition service in October; some even came from out of town and that doesn't include my family. Additionally, the words of the speakers, the dedication prayer, and the large monetary gift all add up to an experience that has become a gift I will continue to cherish for years to come.

Additionally, ever since the formal announcement of my retirement, I have received calls, emails, texts, Facebook comments, and cards from so many you. Almost every week, for three months, someone has gone out of the way to contact me with sincere words of appreciation and best wishes.

All these add up to 2022 being a very meaningful and special year in my life and ministry.

Thanks. Jim Hamacher



Church Staff Birthdays

(Includes church staff current and retired as well as spouses)

- 2 Brian Hughes, PCC
- 9 Cynthia Collins, Winfree
- 15 Susan Hughes, PCC
- 18 Jacob Roberts, Winfree
- 19 Roberta Damon, Retired
- 21 Pam Kirkman, Retired
- 21 Laura Smith, Oak Forest
- 24 Ken Williams, Union
- 25 Jim Hamacher, MDBA
- 25 Sam Mayo, Mt. Hope

Staff Updates

Rev. Dennis Green to Tomahawk as Executive Pastor

Rev. Steve Battaglia to New Walk Bible Church as Pastor

Rev. Chris Palmer to Sandy Creek as Interim Pastor

Mrs. Patti Collins to Lyndale as Church Secretary

Mr. Mark Perkinson to Lyndale as Worship Leader

Ministry Anniversary

Cynthia Collins, Winfree - 10yrs!



Thank You Notes!

The families that are the beneficiaries of your Christmas generosity say thank you in one way or another. Here is just one example:

"Thank you for providing gifts for my family. We are truly thankful for each and every sponsor. I thought it would only be right to send a sign of appreciation & note of love on behalf of myself and my children. We truly appreciate you all!" Sincerely,

(Anonymous due to situation)

From Parkway Baptist Church for Hurricane Relief Funds (excerpt)

"What a wonderful blessing to receive your check for our hurricane relief! As we dig out of all of this, your gift is such a breath of fresh air to us! Such a needed blessing! It gives us great hope for God's continued provision." - Blessings,

Dr. Leonard Anderson, Pastor

Church Accounting Training

Steve Law, MBA, M.Div., will lead 10 Church Accounting Training sessions at the Dover Baptist Association Conference Center. Each session is \$50 per person.

Session 1: **January 26,** 2023 | 10 a.m.— 12:00 p.m. Topic: Financial reporting and bank reconciliation

Session 2: **February 23,** 2023 | 10 a.m.— 12:00 p.m. Topic: Stewardship and capital campaigns; Endowments and planned giving

Session 3: **March 23**, 2023 | 10 a.m.—12:00 p.m. Topic: Legal matters; IRS Relationship and 501(c)(3) Ruling Letter; Incorporation status.

Visit <u>www.doverbaptist.org/church-accounting</u> for more information and to register.