



## Middle District Baptist Association

Starting and Strengthening  
Churches...

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### SOCIAL MEDIA



BLOGS



[Ministry Assistants](#)



### CALENDAR FYI...

12 Daylight Saving  
17 St. Patrick's Day  
31 ACP Deadline

# COMMUNICATOR

March 2023

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE MDBA

## CENTRAL VIRGINIA RACEWAY MINISTRIES

*Sponsored by Dover, Middle District & River City Network*

**Ministry Service Opportunities Available  
During NASCAR Race Weekend  
Saturday, April 1 and Sunday, April 2  
Richmond Raceway  
800 EAST LABURNUM AVENUE**



**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED** to minister by providing race fans an opportunity to worship, enjoy Christian music and arts, discover the message of Christ through media and know His transforming presence.

## VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION & SHIFT SIGN UP

All volunteers or anyone interested in learning more about this ministry ARE REQUIRED to attend the **Worker Training Session on Saturday morning, April 1, at 9:00 a.m.** at the main site at Richmond Raceway (Come through GATE 7). Agenda items for this meeting include briefing by race track guest services official, volunteer responsibilities, finalization of the plans for the week-end activities, and a chance to ask questions. Volunteers can also sign up for a shift times.

## WANTED!! THOUSANDS OF COOKIES!!!

We are asking that church mission groups, Sunday School classes, youth groups, etc. volunteer to make "**homemade**" cookies and bag these in small clear zip lock plastic bags with 2-3 medium sized cookies each. A label saying compliments of \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church may be put on the outside of the bag. No tracts please! These will be available by Central Virginia Raceway Ministries. **Contact Brenda Green at the MDBA office for drop off options.**

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Raceway Ministries -804- 601-4463 or [info@varacewayministries.org](mailto:info@varacewayministries.org)  
OR call Charles Ward at 804-262-3612.

## SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, April 30 , 4:00 pm

Tomahawk Baptist Church

**Semi-Annual Meeting and Executive Director**

**Installation Service**

## A FEW WORDS FROM OUR NEW EXECUTIVE



Greetings!

First off, THANK YOU for the warm welcome to the Middle District Baptist Association. As my wife and I were prayerfully discerning this call to the MDBA, we would often cross paths, either in person or online, with pastors and members of MDBA churches. In our neighborhood alone, we are doing life with a number of neighbors who attend different Middle District churches. As I've heard them speak so favorably about their church communities, I have been looking forward to meeting and getting to know the pastors and staffs who make it all happen.

As we continue to emerge from the era of COVID-19, I think we'd all agree God has been faithful in the midst of it all. At the same time, I believe we all learned a lot during this unprecedented time in our lifetimes. As we move forward in living out the Great Commission and participating in God's redemptive work in the world, I'd love to learn more about you, your ministry and church.

I also want to thank Jim and Brenda for their faithful years of service to the MDBA. Although I am not Jim, I do look forward to building upon the foundation he and Brenda have laid over the years. At the same time, I realize we've all faced a myriad of ministry challenges which have changed the way we have done ministry in recent years.

In closing, I'd like to share with you a pivotal moment in ministry I experienced. It happened during a two year process(2020-2022) of discerning how the church I was pastoring could best organize in an effort to maximize our Kingdom impact potential in the era of COVID-19 and beyond. We challenged the congregation to imagine it's 2025; and ask ourselves, "What is it we want to look back on five years from now and celebrate?" What flowed out of this exercise was a sincere desire to be a community of people living out the Great Commission more deeply; and being a place of hope, healing and restoration in a broken and divided world. The real work started as we began evaluating everything we had been doing in light of this finding and the emerging ministry landscape before us.

As we forge ahead in ministry, I'm excited to see what God will do through you, your ministry and church. I'm honored and grateful for the opportunity to serve the MDBA; and look forward to partnering and working alongside all of you in our collective effort to strengthen one another and our churches.

John Sawyer  
[jsawyer@mdba.org](mailto:jsawyer@mdba.org)

## Church Staff Birthdays

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

- 1 Chelsey Kidd, Chesterfield
- 2 Lindsay Harris, PCC
- 2 Lee Ellison, Retired
- 12 Janice Windle, Retired
- 14 Tamra Sadler, Sandy Creek
- 17 Sammy Frame, Chesterfield
- 20 Brian Prather, Mt. Hermon
- 21 Terri Wyatt, Graceland
- 27 Steve Mapp, Retired
- 29 Beverley Edwards, May Memorial
- 30 Elaina Williams, Union
- 31 David Benjamin, Winfree



## Staff Updates

-Joe Abell, Second Branch, Interim Pastor

Several churches are looking for certain staff positions to fill. Information on those are available on our website:

[www.mdba.org/job-openings](http://www.mdba.org/job-openings)

## Ministry Anniversary

**Paul Cochran, Ironbridge 25 YRS!**



**David Turner, Central, 20 YRS in February!**

## **Church Accounting Training**

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



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

Visit [www.doverbaptist.org/church-accounting](http://www.doverbaptist.org/church-accounting) for more information and to register.



### **Jim Hamacher Email**

If you wish to stay in touch with Jim Hamacher, you are more than welcome to do so. His email is [jghamacher@verizon.net](mailto:jghamacher@verizon.net).

## **Annual Church Profile Report**

The ACP report needs to be filed no later than March 31, 2023. Each church log in information has not changed, but is available through our office if you need the info. Contact [brenda@mdba.org](mailto:brenda@mdba.org) or call 276-8481.