



Middle District Baptist Association

Starting and Strengthening
Churches...

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SOCIAL MEDIA



BLOGS



[Ministry Assistants](#)

CALENDAR FYI...

- 1-2 Raceway Ministry
- 7 Good Friday, Office Closed
- 9 Easter Sunday
- 30 Semi-Annual Mtg.



COMMUNICATOR

April 2023

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE MDBA

Semi-Annual Meeting and Executive Director Installation Service

Sunday, April 30 , 4:00 pm

Tomahawk Baptist Church

You are

Cordially Invited

to join us as we celebrate and officially
start a new chapter at the

Middle District Baptist Association

with the installation of Executive Director,

Rev. John Sawyer.



The service will take place in the sanctuary of Tomahawk Church, with a reception to follow.



A FEW WORDS FROM OUR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Greetings!

Let me begin by saying, I'm truly honored, humbled and grateful for your and God's calling to serve the Middle District Baptist Association. Over the past eight weeks, I've had opportunities to connect with some really great pastors and leaders in the association. As I've listened to your stories, I've been encouraged to learn more about the ways MDBA churches and pastors have networked and supported one another over the years. Although some might call my first eight weeks here the honeymoon phase, it has truly been refreshing to meet with so many like minded brothers and sisters, right here in Central VA.

As much as I would love to jump in and just start doing things, I realize the inherent challenges with this type of leadership. A wiseman once told me, "part of knowing where you're going is knowing where you're coming from." So, my goal has been to listen and learn more about where we've been, where we're at today and where we hope to be in the future.

Here are some of my takeaways thus far:

- Thanks to the collective thoughts, ideas and collaborative efforts of those who've gone before us in the Middle District, we have a great foundation and some existing programs to build on going forward.
- As we hold onto what's worked in the past, we must also be willing to explore new ideas, thoughts and collaborative ministry opportunities going forward.

I realize the thought of changing or tweaking things within any organization, let alone a church, creates a degree of angst in some and excitement in others. However with hindsight being 20/20, it's easy to look back and see how the status quo has been one of the greatest threats to organizations of all types. Here's the good news: Although our world has changed significantly over the past decade and our methods of ministry have morphed over time, the message of the gospel hasn't change. We serve a God who remains the same yesterday, today and forever. This realization should be a source of peace and comfort to everyone, the anxious and the excited.

Some view the challenges we're facing today as major problems, while others see them as opportunities. With all the grumbling and uncertainty playing out at higher associational levels, I believe now is the time for the local associations to double down in an effort to unite the body. The Middle District is loaded with gifted preachers and followers of Jesus who possess a myriad of spiritual gifts. My hope and prayer is that we will be ready and "all in" for a sweeping movement of God's Spirit right here at home in the Middle District.

As I continue making my way around to visit pastors and churches, I'd love to hear from you. It's been said, "any idea not coupled with action gets no larger than the brain cell it occupies." Your voice, your thoughts and your ideas matter. If we haven't yet connected, please reach out and let's make it happen. It may sound cliché, but we truly are better together.

With you on this journey with Jesus!

John

Church Staff Birthdays

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

- 1 Bill Damon, Retired
- 1 Tony Tomandl, PCC
- 5 Matt Knesal, Winfree
- 6 Sarah Cochran, Ironbridge
- 14 Randall McConnell, Chester
- 15 Reggie Kirkman, Retired
- 28 Ed Alexander, Retired



Staff Updates

Elisa Walsh - Office Administrator, Winfree
Gerrad Morton - Pastoral Care/Administration
Pastor, Oak Forest

Sympathy to... Rev. Michael Edwards
(May Memorial) at the death of his
mother, Kaye Edwards.



Ministry Anniversary



Todd Bradbury, Bethel, 10 years!



HE IS RISEN!

Matthew 28:6

Up from the grave He arose and so we have hope! It's a fallen world we live in but the love and hope we have through Jesus Christ our Lord provides solace. We pray you also have the peace that passes all understanding through HOPE in Jesus Christ.



- Happy Resurrection Day, John Sawyer & Brenda Green