



## Middle District Baptist Association

Starting and Strengthening  
Churches...

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## SOCIAL MEDIA



BLOG



[Ministry Assistants](#)

## CALENDAR at a Glance

June 15: EHL Workshop  
July 1-School Supply  
July 29-30: Raceway  
Aug. 3-4: GLS Conference

# COMMUNICATOR

Summer 2023

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE MDBA

## SUMMER ISSUE

School's out, graduations are happening and vacations are just around the corner! With the warmer weather it is a great time to **grab a book or other reading material** and sit out by the pool, or lounge on your deck. So, why not take The Communicator along and catch up on all the upcoming summer events and news! This issue covers June - August with a little of fall for your reading pleasure. 😊 Be sure to be on the lookout in September for the next issue.

Speaking of celebrations, I just wanted to take a moment to thank each of you for your kind words as I celebrate **20 years of ministry** through MDBA, and the Leadership Committee for the special treat of lunch and award. It does not seem like 20 years have passed and that is mostly because of **all of you** that have made it an absolute pleasure to serve alongside of!! Dennis and I also celebrate 40 years of marriage this month so it is a double celebratory time in my life. God is so GOOD!! **Thank you** again and happy reading!!  
- Brenda Green ❤️



Collect school supplies beginning July 1 and drop them off at the MDBA office, Tuesday or Wednesday by 3 pm, or Oak Forest Baptist, 5101 Courthouse Rd. ( Tuesday - Friday, 9 am - 1 pm) by August 15. The list needed is on our website but they **especially need high school backpacks** which are always in high demand.

## Raceway Ministry - July 29-30

Check out the mdba website for updates and more info  
or visit [varacewayministries.org](http://varacewayministries.org)



# A FEW WORDS FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



## A Longing to See Unity and Love in the Middle District

In John chapter 17, we see evidence of Jesus praying for his disciples and all who'd come to faith in him through their ministry. *"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me, and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—"I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me."* John 17:20-23

The week of **revival** at Tomahawk Baptist Church was a prime example of what I believe Jesus meant when he prayed for his followers. Bound together in a spirit of unity and love, Pastor Eric Carroll and pastors from four other Middle District churches worked collaboratively to bring 5 consecutive nights of awesome worship to Tomahawk.



I've also experienced this spirit of unity and love in the groups of pastors who meet monthly for fellowship, encouragement, accountability, and prayer. Having been a pastor and knowing all too well the demands of pastoral ministry, I know firsthand how easy it is for a pastor to become somewhat **isolated in ministry** and **lose focus** of their greater Kingdom calling. It's been refreshing to see pastors prioritize these monthly gatherings and leading out of a shared awareness that we are called to minister together as brothers and sisters in the larger family of Jesus.

At the same time, I'm reminded of all the other ministry leaders in Middle District Churches, including those leading **worship, children and student ministries**, and more. As easy as it is for lead pastors to become isolated in ministry, it may be even easier for the other often less visible ministers to feel alone or become frustrated in ministry.

Beginning this fall, the Middle District will be offering monthly gatherings for other areas of ministry. If you are serving in a ministerial or pastoral role, we'd love to connect you to others who are doing the same. For this to happen, we need to hear from you. Please let us know your interest and area of ministry by sending an email to [jsawyer@mdba.org](mailto:jsawyer@mdba.org). We will be deciding dates and times based on your availability. Let's all take part in realizing Christ's desire for unity and love in the greater Church.

With you on the journey!

John - [Jsawyer@mdba.org](mailto:Jsawyer@mdba.org)

## Leadership Summit 2023

Join other Middle District leaders at this premiere leadership event hosted by the Midlothian Campus of Passion Community Church!

Passion Community Church  
50 Old Otterdale Road  
Midlothian, 23113

Speakers such as Condoleezza Rice, Dave Ramsey, Patrick Lencioni, Craig Groeshel, and more!



# LEAD WHERE YOU ARE.

THE GLOBAL LEADERSHIP NETWORK

**AUGUST 3 & 4**  
HOSTED @ THE  
MIDLOTHIAN CAMPUS

**REGISTER TODAY**  
@ [PCCWIRED.NET/GLS](https://pccwired.net/gls)

## LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**MONDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 18, 2023**

**5:15-8:30 PM  
SHALOM BAPTIST CHURCH**

8116 Walnut Grove Road  
Mechanicsville, VA 23111



### The Emotionally Healthy Leader Course Part 1

Many pastors are somewhat familiar with the work of Dr. Peter Scazzero, a church planter, pastor and author. Over the past 3 decades, Scazzero has worked in the field of discipleship. Along the way, he has developed several life changing courses that are being taught across the globe. Our Executive Director, John Sawyer, has worked with Peter over the past 16 years.

We will be offering the Emotionally Healthy Leader Course this fall. What you can expect:

- An 8-week course with assessments for leaders and teams to measure their leadership health
- Practical, proven strategies that are being implemented in the local church and equipping leaders around the world. How to develop a deep, inner life with Christ, examining its profound implications for surviving stress, planning and decision making, building teams, creating healthy culture, influencing others, and much more.
- Going beyond simply offering a quick fix or new technique, The Emotionally Healthy Leader Course gets to the core, beneath-the-surface issues of uniquely Christian leadership.

For more information or to express interest, please email Rev. John Sawyer, [jsawyer@mdba.org](mailto:jsawyer@mdba.org).

## CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!!



## MISSIONS SCHOLARSHIP

Middle District, through our Local Missions Offering, will provide a **scholarship** to help with mission trip expenses. In so doing, it is our hope that the Association will demonstrate it is living out its mission by impacting the **community** with God's love in a tangible way. This is a **new ministry** and taking the place of our Education Scholarship. The application is available on our website, [mdba.org](http://mdba.org).

### Ministry Anniversary

August -David Benjamin, Winfree - 15 years

July - Sammy Frame, Chesterfield - 5 years



### Church Staff Birthdays

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

#### June

- 2 Nancy Hamacher, Retired
- 4 Sue Duganne, Stockton
- 9 Dennis Green, Tomahawk
- 10 Matt McCauley, Friendship
- 13 Sandy Wynne, Com of Grace
- 14 Bill Duganne, Stockton
- 17 Paul Cochran, Ironbridge
- 24 Chris Palmer, Sandy Creek
- 28 Kirby Smith, Oak Forest
- 28 Mimi Weaver, Retired

#### July

- 7 Sandra Dupuy, Retired
- 13 Ron Wyatt, Graceland
- 13 Bob Wynne, Comm Grace
- 17 Donalda Engleman, Retired
- 20 Mark Jordan, Retired
- 21 Dorothy Stansfield, Retired
- 25 Rob Toepfert, PCC
- 31 Amanda Morton, Oak Forest

#### August

- 8 Susan Meredith, Chester
- 11 Angie Frame, PCC
- 12 Tony Stoddard, PCC
- 12 Robyn Taylor, Retired
- 14 Berta Harris, Retired
- 14 Jack Wiley, Bethlehem
- 16 Josh Roberts, Winfree
- 19 David Turner, Central
- 21 Todd Bradbury, Bethel
- 22 Pal Jordan, Retired
- 22 Joyce Royer, Retired
- 24 Tracey Young, Bellwood
- 29 Jana Benjamin, Winfree
- 30 Jimmy Doan, Winfree

