



## Middle District Baptist Association

Starting and Strengthening Churches...

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## SOCIAL MEDIA



## BLOG



[Ministry Assistants](#)

## OTHER CALENDAR DATES TO REMEMBER

1/15 MLK, Jr. Holiday,  
Office Closed / School Out

1/16 Pastors Group 1

1/18 Pastors Group 2

1/31 W2's Due

2/14 Valentine's Day

2/19 Presidents Day  
Office Closed/School Out

3/30-31 Raceway Ministries

# COMMUNICATOR

January 2024

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE MDBA

*The Future of Your Church is Already in Your Pews*  
**January 23rd - 12:00 to 1:30**  
Transformation Church RVA  
6000 Iron Bridge Rd  
Richmond, VA 23234  
All are Welcome - RSVP to Brenda Green at [brenda@mdba.org](mailto:brenda@mdba.org)

Put this on your calendar

Pastors & Lay Leaders Lunch

## ABOUT OUR SPEAKER

The demographic reality facing most churches is an aging membership. Many lament that they are not attracting young people to church and their future looks bleak. In the session, Matt Thornhill, national Boomer expert and author of *Boomer Consumer*, shares specific steps you can take to "activate" the Boomers already in your pews to grow the church. He'll explain easy-to-implement strategies and tactics to reach the un-churched of every age in your community, tapping into the resources you have in your building already: Boomers.

## EHR LEADERSHIP COURSE PART 2

(Relationships)

Thursday, January 25

1:00 - 3:00 pm

Cost: \$40



Join us for the **Emotionally Healthy Leadership Course - Relationships!** This **online event** is designed to equip leaders with the necessary tools and insights to lead with emotional health and authenticity. Whether you are a seasoned leader or just starting out, this course will provide practical guidance and strategies for leading well.

You course facilitator, John Sawyer, has worked extensively with Peter Scazzero over the past 15 years bringing this course to church leaders across the globe. Although the Relationships course is part two of the EHL course, you don't have to take the two 8-week courses in any specific order. Part 1 of this course will be offered again in the Fall of 2024. All are welcome.

Get signed up: [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com)

## A FEW WORDS FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



As we embark on a new year, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on 2023. When I came into my role as Executive Director of the Middle District in February, one of my first goals was to get out and personally meet the pastor and churches in the association. Over the past 10 months, **I've met some amazing men and women** who are making a Kingdom difference in the lives of those around them.

I want to thank you for your unwavering faith and devotion to God. Your spiritual guidance and leadership provide a source of strength and inspiration to your congregation. Your commitment to studying and teaching the Word of God is instrumental in helping others grow in their faith.

At the same time, I want to remind you to **take care of yourself**. As you pour out your heart and soul into ministry, it's important to prioritize your own spiritual, emotional, and physical well-being. I'm thrilled to share we are **adding a third pastors group in January**. These groups offer pastors a chance to find moments of rest and rejuvenation, and seek support from fellow pastors and friends who can walk alongside them. We will also be offering the Emotionally Healthy Leader Course and bringing back ministry lunches in January.

I've also had the opportunity to meet with some **associate pastors and ministers** who are interested in connecting with others who are doing similar ministries in the Middle District. If that's you, please reach out and let's dream together about doing a "new thing" in 2024. My hope for this coming year is that no one in the Middle District feel as though they're going it alone in ministry. May 2024 be a year where we all experience His presence in a deeper way and be filled with a renewed passion for serving His people.

Thank you for your dedication, sacrifice, and desire to see God's Kingdom advance in your community and beyond. Your work is invaluable!

Grace and Peace,

John

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

## Richmond Raceway Dates

March: Saturday 30th & Sunday 31st, 2024

August: Saturday 10th & Sunday 11th, 2024



We need help to:

- Set-up under the tents and in Lot F.
- Transport the tables and chairs, igloos, etc.
- Distribute the "cup of cold water," lemonade and cookies.
- Maintain tables where we give out free Bibles, tracts, New Testaments, etc.
- Hand out flyers before races to advertise worship services and big celebration Sunday afternoon.
- Guide the fans around the track.
- Run games/matchbox car races, paint faces, & serve snow-cones and popcorn at our Kids Corner locations.
- Provide homemade cookies

To volunteer or ask questions, please call Charles Ward at 804-317-0094 to get info for your short online, self-paced training.

## Church & Clergy Tax Seminar

February 22, 2024

9:30 a.m. until Noon

**Location: Virginia Baptist Resource Center or Virtual**

*Attendees will get help with tax implications of compensation planning for church staff (including retirement and insurance), handling minister's taxes, and federal reporting requirements for churches. Those who cannot attend the seminar have the option to receive a link to the seminar recording for future viewing.*

**More info or register:**

[www.bgav.org/events](http://www.bgav.org/events)

### Church Staff Birthdays

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

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



### Ministry Anniversary



**Dennis Green, Exe. Pastor, Tomahawk**  
**1 yr.**

