



Middle District Baptist Association

Starting and Strengthening Churches...

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SOCIAL MEDIA



BLOG



[Ministry Assistants](#)

IMPORTANT CALENDAR DATES TO REMEMBER

4/1-4/5 Spring Break, CCPS, ACPS, PCPS
11 Pastor/Leaders Lunch, Friendship BC
19 Leadership Comm.

COMMUNICATOR

April 2024

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE MDBA

Pastors/Leadership LUNCH

Thursday, April 11 • Friendship Baptist
Noon - 1:30 pm



RSVP BY 04/05
brenda@mdba.org

Topic: "Ministry on the Margins"
Ministering to people struggling with substance use disorders

Join us for lunch and an open panel dialog with people we have been on all sides of this issue. Contact brenda@mdba.org to register before April 5.

SHRMP MISSION PROJECT UPDATE

Cost: \$200*

Dates: June 22 - 29

Join in with other groups to serve the community of Hampton Road.

We will **collect new/used children's books as well as hygiene supply**

bags for this project. Please bring to the MDBA office by June 13. Pick up also available by calling our office, 276-8481 to schedule.

***Ask about scholarships!**



A FEW WORDS FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



One of our **goals in 2024** involved bringing back the informational ministry luncheons. So, we kicked things off in January with a wonderful luncheon at Transformation Church RVA. From the food to the information that was shared, we have received a lot of positive feedback from those who attended. Personally, I was caught up in the spirit of unity and fellowship we were experiencing together. At the end of the day, I found the time to be life giving.

Our next luncheon will be held at **Friendship Baptist Church on April 11th** at noon. Our topic will be **Ministry on the Margins**. Our focus will be how the church can best minister to people struggling with substance use disorders, and their families. Join us for lunch and an **open panel** dialog with people who've been on all sides of this issue.

While I realize this topic may or may not appeal to folks for a myriad of reasons, **it's an issue we simply can't avoid**. Drug and substance abuse continues to be a major problem across the United States, with 1 in 4 Americans over the age of 12 admitting that they used illicit drugs in 2023. In Central VA alone, we continue to see a high number of overdoses from fentanyl use. The **reality** is every congregation in the middle district has people who have been, or currently are, dealing with the consequences and fall out from addiction.

Being informed, thinking well and prayer are important factors in helping us discern the best ways we can help, **why** we should help, **when** we should help and **how** to help. Our goal is that everyone will leave this luncheon better equipped to minister to those struggling with substance use disorders.

Grace and Peace,

John

Jsawyer@mdba.org



Spring Meeting 2024
MAY 19

Our community of faith will meet at James River Community Church for a time of fellowship, updates on what is going on around the MDBA, and will include a vote on this new church plant!

3:00 pm

James River Community Church
2440 Hancock Dr, Midlothian, VA 23113

504-275-8481 MDBA.ORG




ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS APPRECIATION WEEK - April 22- 26

An opportunity to say **THANKYOU** to your administrative staff!




Church Staff Birthdays

(Includes church staff current, retired and spouses)



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




*If your birthday has not been included, let us know!

Staff Updates

Dr. Carol Hill, Director of Traditional Worship, Winfree.

Dr. David Benjamin, Winfree Senior Pastor, announced retirement as of June 24.



Ministry Anniversary

Paul Myers, Passion Community
10 yrs.