



# The COMMUNICATOR

Middle District Baptist Association  
Starting Churches...Strengthening Churches

**June/July 2016**

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Visit our website

[www.mdba.org](http://www.mdba.org)



Blogs

[Living These Days](#)

[Ministry Assistants](#)



## Get Plugged In!

Nominations are now being accepted for Middle District Committee/Team positions in 2017 on behalf of Leadership Committee. Send names and reason for nomination to [Brenda@mdba.org](mailto:Brenda@mdba.org) before September 1.

## Mission Outreach Update

When: Tuesday, June 21, 7:00 PM

Where: Tomahawk Baptist Church, 12920 Hull Street Rd.

Join other representatives and friends from around our faith community in hearing the latest going on around Middle District.

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D  
B  
A



May 2016

**A Great Day!**

## FROM YOUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



### Wondering How to Deepen Discipleship for Long-Time Christians?

“Every Middle District pastor ought to attend that conference!” Jeff Martin boldly asserted. As the somewhat- new Small Groups Pastor at Ironbridge, I was interested in his response to attending the recent Emotionally Healthy Leadership Conference; so I asked him how it went. Over the last couple of years I have read Peter Scazzero’s books and I anticipated the answer would certainly be yes, but I took special note about Jeff’s enthusiasm. Even more, I was interested if Jeff was impressed enough to introduce the Emotionally Healthy insights into his small group discipleship ministry. The answer was a definite “yes!”

We all know that something is missing in our church’s approach to discipleship when behaviors like these are too often observed almost every month of our ministry:

- the man who regularly attends Sunday morning Bible study, almost never misses worship, yet acts like a fool in committee meetings or business sessions.
- the “volunteer of the year” at church is failing as a mom and wife; husband or father.
- the pastor preaches eloquently about grace but is a perfectionist whom no one can please and is not fun to be around.
- most of our people pile on activities that add to their schedules and stress, while actually decreasing their enjoyment of life.
- authenticity is something we value but seldom model.

The list could go on – but you get the idea.

Enter Peter Scazzero, a mega pastor in New Jersey who had mega emotional issues and refused to face his dark side until his wife forced him to because she too was at her emotional breaking point. (She tells her side of the story in the great book, *I Quit*.) Their healing and health were long-time coming but revolutionary. They gained a marriage they had always wanted, but never had, and eventually developed “a strategy for discipleship that actually changes lives.” Fast-forward twenty years and churches across the country want to learn more. Their approach to discipleship and church leadership is based on this life-changing insight:

**It’s impossible to be spiritually mature while remaining emotionally immature.**

If you are interested in knowing more, contact one of our MDBA pastors who participated in the conference: Jeff Martin (Ironbridge), Todd Bradbury (Bethel) and David Benjamin (Winfrey). Also, John Sawyer, James River site pastor at Bon Air is leading a ministers’ group in Emotionally Healthy Spirituality. If you would like some great summer reading to challenge you emotionally, spiritually, while deepening your ability to lead, read Scazzero’s three main titles:

***The Emotionally Healthy Church:*** A Strategy for Discipleship that Actually Changes Lives.

***Emotionally Healthy Spirituality:*** It’s Impossible to be Spiritually Mature While Remaining Emotionally Immature

***The Emotionally Healthy Leader:*** How Transforming Your Inner Life will Deeply Transform your Church, Team and the World.

- Jim Hamacher



 **THE GLOBAL  
LEADERSHIP SUMMIT**

August 11-12, 2016 | [willowcreek.com/summit](http://willowcreek.com/summit)

West End Assembly of God, Parham Rd.

Register for this premiere event through MDBA and **SAVE!**  
Cost: \$99 per person. Visit [www.mdba.org](http://www.mdba.org) for details  
or call 276-8481.

## Staff & Spouses of MDBA June / July Birthdays

### June

- 1 Michael Edwards, May Memorial
- 2 Nancy Hamacher, MDBA/Winfree
- 8 Laurie Clifton, New Journey
- 9 Dennis Green, Ironbridge
- 12 Debbie Howard, Red Lane
- 13 Sandy Wynn, Community of Grace
- 14 Bill Duganne, Stockton
- 15 Jamie Jefferson, Elkhardt
- 17 Paul Cochran, Ironbridge
- 18 **Lorena Markowski, Branch's**
- 24 Chris Palmer, Ironbridge
- 27 Jim Wilson, Arbor
- 28 Mimi Weaver, Winfree
- 30 Julia Wiley, Bethlehem



### July

- 1 Alice Cates, Chester
- 4 Brad Russell, Old Powhatan
- 6 **Dorryce Rudd, Branch's**
- 7 Sandra Dupuy, Oak Forest
- 13 Ron Wyatt, Graceland
- 13 Bob Wynne, Community of Grace
- 17 Donalda Engleman, Chesterfield
- 21 Rita Smith-Kistler, Winfree
- 24 Joel Ingram, Chester
- 25 Mildred Maxey, Amelia
- 26 Lloyd Braswell, Chester

## CALENDAR

### June

- 1 Missions/Ministry Team, MD office
- 11 WMU Spring Meeting
- 19 **Father's Day**
- 19 - 25 Impact VA-Chesterfield, Central BC
- 21 MD Business Meeting, Tomahawk, 7 p



### July

- 4 MD Office closed, Holiday



## Ministry Anniversary

### June

Ronnie Eason, Elkhardt, 20 yrs!



### July

Bill Damon, Chester, 15 yrs!

**Congratulations!**



## VCLA Summer Librarian Coffee & Chat



Monument Heights Baptist Church  
5716 Monument Ave., Richmond

June 4, 2016

10:00 am to 11:30 pm

Sponsored by:

The Library Team of

Monument Heights Baptist Church

RSVP by May 31

To: Lee Smith

804-306-3862

Or LSsmith5471@aol.com

This round-table discussion is for all church librarians—Richmond or any other church in our region!

Topics: budgets, collection, copyright, insurance, promotion, space design, weeding, etc.

Those interested in beginning a church library ministry are urged to attend!

Come get acquainted, ask questions, and share what's happening in your library!

You may bring duplicate books from your library for the Sharing Table—with copyright not more than 10 years.

Virginia Church Library Association

[www.vacla.org](http://www.vacla.org)