



The COMMUNICATOR

Middle District Baptist Association
Starting Churches...Strengthening Churches

May 2016

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Visit our website

www.mdba.org



Blogs

[Living These Days](#)

[Ministry Assistants](#)

Associational Local Missions Offering May 15-22, 2016 Goal: \$11,000

Theme: Declaring His Glory in our neighborhoods
and around the world.

*Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous
deeds among all peoples. Ps 96:3*

Mission Dignity: Funds to help retired Southern Baptist ministers, workers and their widows who have faithfully served God's people, and now find themselves struggling to meet even basic needs.

African Partnerships: Ministers to African health needs, students, orphans, pastors and underprivileged.

Central Virginia Baptist Ministries: Provides Middle District churches annual training for deacons/pastors, and church leaders. Also hosts a raceway ministry at RIR each spring and fall.

Impact Chesterfield: A one week missions experience in June for youth who will come from all over Virginia to Chesterfield for hands-on-missions, lots of fun, and life-changing worship.

Kingdom Builders: Twice yearly youth gather to help with home repairs for those in need in Middle District. Funds provide the needed building supplies.

Ministry Educational Scholarship: Financial assistance for students pursuing vocational Christian ministry.

Missionary Support: Karen Collins is a missionary in Taiwan with deep roots in Branch's Baptist and was one of the 800 missionaries released because of the IMB downsizing. These funds will help her remain on the mission field.

New Work: Middle District's mission to start churches utilizes funds from this offering to support new church-starting initiatives, mission-type ethnic work, salary supplements, and additional resources.

Strengthening Churches: Helping churches reach their full potential through spiritual renewal, strategic planning, specialized training, conflict management, and pastoral resources.

Young Life: A national high school ministry that started a new chapter in our Association. Middle District is pleased to aid in the spread of the gospel in our schools.

This annual Associational Offering honors the spirit and memory of Nannie Bland David, MDBA missionary to China and former member of Bethlehem. Ministries throughout our community and the world are supported so that all may experience the love of Jesus.

FROM YOUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

More than Words

These words begin our mission statement:

Middle District exists to start and strengthen churches...



The Ministry Assistants Network

Anyone who knows anything about church life knows that a significant part of a congregation's ministry is what happens in the church office. Realizing this, our own Brenda Green has begun a blog, **Ministry Assistants: Information, Encouragement and Resources** (ministryassistants.mdba.org) along with a Ministry Assistants network. Her efforts are normally "behind the scenes" yet are a very significant aspect of Middle District's efforts to make sure that our mission of "strengthening churches" is more than words on a paper but something that we actually do. I have been pleased to observe the good practical training and personal support she continues to offer to so many of our Middle District ministry assistants. If you would like more information regarding the

network or ways in which we can help strengthen the ministry of your church office, please do not hesitate to contact Brenda at Brenda@mdba.org or our office.

THE GATHERING

*Your words have put stumbling people on their feet,
put fresh hope in people about to collapse. Job 4:4*

These words from Job are the goal of THE GATHERING – to offer fresh hope to our ministers as a part of our "strengthening churches" efforts. For the past three years, each spring and fall Middle District has invited ministers from around our area to experience a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and discussion on a topic related to strengthening churches. Each session of THE GATHERING features an accomplished church leader with valuable expertise and experience.

Normally the guest speakers are from out of town but last month **Brian Hughes** and his **PCC staff** shared about "Lessons Learned" over recent years in growing a strong, healthy church. Once again the participants went away from the half-day session filled with practical ideas they could adapt to their own church situation. It was a great time of learning and fellowship!



Ministers/Staff Luncheon
Chesterfield Church, 16520 Hull Street Rd., Moseley



Would you like to up your energy levels? Mix a few common sense steps with large portion of TLC to Super Size your order of life fuel.

Speaker: Mrs. Sherry Graves, Certified Health Coach and RN and member of Tomahawk Baptist Church.

To Register: FREE!! Contact Brenda@mdba.org by Tuesday, May 17.

Staff & Spouses of MDBA

MAY Birthdays

- 1 Jeannette Pendleton, Retired
- 2 Bernard Camden, Retired
- 4 Teresa McConnell, Chester
- 7 Helen Thompson, Bethlehem
- 9 James Bryan, Retired
- 16 Beth Stoddard, PCC
- 22 Dee Palmer, Ironbridge
- 27 Nelson Taylor, Central



MAY CALENDAR

- 5 National Day of Prayer
- 8 **Mother's Day**
- 14 Kingdom Builders, Second Branch
- 15-22 Local Associational Missions Offering Emphasis
- 19 Ministers & Staff Luncheon, Chesterfield BC, Noon
- 30 Memorial Day, MD office closed



Save the Dates!

- WMU Spring Meeting, June 11
- Impact VA-Chesterfield, Central BC
- MD Business Meeting, June 21, Tomahawk, 7 pm
- Leadership Summit, August 11-12, West End Assembly

Youth One-Day Local Mission Project



Join youth groups around our association as they come together twice a year to be the hands and feet of Jesus. Adult supervisors are also needed!

Registration forms and more details are available at mdba.org or contact our office.