



AUGUST 2024

CANDLES

MORATTICO BAPTIST CHURCH

# THE HILL



FROM THE  
PASTOR

I love candles! I admit it, I really enjoy the way candles transform a room. It is an interesting fact that candles are soothing to the senses and will create a relaxing and warm environment. It's also interesting that most Baptist churches don't emphasize candles in the worship service.

When I was living near Richmond, a few times I attended a Catholic church with a friend. I was lost during most of the service, sitting when I should be standing and standing when I should be sitting. And even with four years of Latin I couldn't follow some of the readings. But the church was beautiful and each Sunday service included candles and incense that created reverence and calm. I felt quiet in my soul during those services, in spite of being completely lost during most of it!

My earliest recollection of candles is from a field trip to Colonial Williamsburg where

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## THE HISTORY OF CANDLES

Candles have been used as a source of light and to illuminate celebrations for more than 5,000 years, yet little is known about their origin. The earliest use of candles is often attributed to the Ancient Egyptians who made rushlights or torches by soaking the pithy core of reeds in melted animal fat.

The ancient Romans are generally credited with developing the wicked candle before that time by dipping rolled papyrus repeatedly in melted tallow or beeswax. The resulting candles were used to light their homes, to aid travelers at night, and in religious ceremonies.

It is also known that candles played an important role in early religious ceremonies. Hanukkah, the Jewish Festival of Lights which centers on the lighting of candles, dates back to 165 B.C. There are several Biblical references to candles. The Emperor Constantine is reported to have called for the use of candles during an Easter service in the 4<sup>th</sup> century.

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Our Pastor, Richard Abbott  
Margaret Ambrose  
Jane Austin  
Billy Benson  
Broaddus Blake and family  
Page Carlson  
Betty Christopher  
Eddie and Connie Dawson  
Eleanor Delano  
Ralph Doth  
Charlotte Evans  
Wilson and Sandra Evans  
Alice Fallin  
Bill and Mary Fletcher  
Paul Foster  
Douglas Garrett  
Johnny Gilbert  
Margaret Gaines Greene  
Mary Herndon  
Greg Howell  
Anna Keane  
Cathy Kellum  
Ben Little  
Shirley McNeal  
Donald Morgan  
Richard, Rosie and Rich Pruett  
Sylvia Saunders  
Pattie Ruark Sobieski  
Sue B. Staton  
Paul Stone  
Fran Stout  
Charlotte Swaffin  
Tommy Thompson  
Clint "Scooby" Walker  
Lynn Keane Walls  
Miklos "Micky" Weisz  
United States of America

*Please give us updates on whether to keep praying or rejoice in being able to remove someone from this list.*

*When adding someone to our prayer list, please provide an address so we can send a card.*

*Prayer list contact  
Mae Shelton at 804-366-3817  
As of July 17<sup>th</sup>*



2 Patricia Taylor  
4 David Humphreys  
5 Karen Harcum  
9 Landon Reihls  
14 Mae Shelton  
14 Marie Goode  
14 Marbary Harcum  
20 Connie Hudnall  
21 Paul Stout  
23 Sylvia Saunders  
24 Charla Compton  
25 Angie Haynie  
26 Betty Christopher  
27 Rich Pruett  
31 Callie Souders  
31 Kelli Sullivan

August 4, 1990  
Kathy and Timmy Pittman

August 6  
David and Connie Hudnall

August 11  
Michael and Darlene Nonnemacker

August 16, 1975  
Ned and Marie Goode

August 21  
Jo Ann and Richard Fickling

## THE HISTORY OF CANDLES

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The growth of the whaling industry in the late 18th century brought the first major change in candle making since the Middle Ages, when spermaceti — a wax obtained by crystallizing sperm whale oil — became available in quantity. Like beeswax, the spermaceti wax did not elicit a repugnant odor when burned and produced a significantly brighter light. It also was harder than either tallow or beeswax, so it wouldn't soften or bend in the summer heat. Historians note that the first "standard candles" were made from spermaceti wax.

Candles have come a long way since their initial use. While they are no longer used as a major source of light, they continue to grow in popularity and use. Today, candles serve to symbolize a celebration, ignite romance, soothe the senses, honor a ceremony, and accent home decors — casting a warm and lovely glow for all to enjoy.

<https://candles.org/history/>



**Please join us in August and September for our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Summer Gospel Sing series. The Gospel Sings start at 7 pm and feature local churches and other Christian based music artists.**

**Refreshments and fellowship will follow.**

**August 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Morattico Baptist Church Band  
Streets of Gold**

**September 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Beulah Baptist Church Choir  
2<sup>nd</sup> group TBA**

## FROM THE PASTOR

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as an elementary school student I witnessed the magic of candle making in the 1700s. As the docent dipped and dipped again the cotton wick, a lovely white candle began to take shape. I bought a box of three and took them home to my mother as a gift. From that moment I was a fan of candles.

I also believe that a candlelit room brings us closer to God if we are in a meditative and contemplative time. We used to have candlelit dinners at home once in a while. At the table where our only light is that of a few candles, I could see the Last Supper. I easily imagine Jesus and the disciples reclining at the table in the upper room, dim except for a few candles that flickered light on that Passover meal. I imagine the face of Jesus in the dim candlelight, His eyes tired from stress, His skin dark from the Middle Eastern sun and His face showing the knowledge of what was to be in a few short hours.

We are nearing the end of summer and will soon be celebrating fall, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Before you get caught up in the holiday season, take the time to enjoy a candlelit evening ~ no television, no phone, just a quiet meal by candlelight. And as you relish in the ambiance of the candles dim light, imagine that Jesus is there with you. In the dim, reverent light, thank Him for loving you enough to die for you. Thank Jesus for being the light of the world, a light that is represented by the candles on your table. When you see the face of Jesus by candlelight, you see the ever present face of God.

Blessings!

# Newsletter Deadline



If you have ideas, suggestions,  
family news, articles or photos,  
submit them to

[newsletter@moratticobaptistchurch.org](mailto:newsletter@moratticobaptistchurch.org)

or call Kathy Pittman at  
(804) 761-2441

**Deadline:**  
**10<sup>th</sup> of each month**



**PENCIL IT IN**

Sunday: 8:45 am Sunday School (adult)  
10 am Sunday Service

### **Calendar events:**

August 2 Gospel Sing  
August 13 MBC Band at Mt. Olive Revival  
Sept 6 Gospel Sing  
Sept 19 Business Meeting

### **Candles are used in church for several reasons, including:**

To symbolize the light of Christ, the light of the gospel, or the sacredness of the time and space for worship.

To remind the congregation of Jesus' coming into the world and into their lives.

To represent the burning light of faith that compels us to adore God and bring our petitions to Him.

To enhance the beauty of the church and provide additional light for worship.

To represent the connection between the human and the divine, and the power of prayer, devotion, and healing.

## **Morattico Baptist Church**

**Richard C. Abbott, Pastor**

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website: [moratticobaptistchurch.org](http://moratticobaptistchurch.org)

Facebook: The Morattico Baptist Church

### **NEWSLETTER DEPARTMENT:**

[newsletter@moratticobaptistchurch.org](mailto:newsletter@moratticobaptistchurch.org)

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Proofreader: Patricia Taylor