



Morattico Baptist Church
MBC2028
Celebrating 250 Years 1778–2028

AUGUST 2025

MORATTICO BAPTIST CHURCH

THE HILL



FROM THE PASTOR

As many of you know, I greatly enjoy studying history. Of particular interest to me are World War II, Virginia/Northern Neck history and of course the history of Morattico Baptist Church. I enjoy discovering new and interesting elements of the history of Virginia and MBC.

One of the many benefits of preparing for the 250th Anniversary has been uncovering previously unknown resources. One of those resources is Encyclopedia Virginia, a program that is sponsored by the University of Virginia to make Virginia history accessible on the internet. But what makes Encyclopedia Virginia different is that it seeks to uncover the small details of history. The history of Virginia is a patchwork of great and small moments that shaped our Commonwealth and her people.

It is this effort to share the seemingly insignificant events that led them to

Continued on page 4



On a beautiful sunny Friday in May, staff from *Virginia Humanities' Encyclopedia Virginia (EV)* project photographed the Morattico Baptist Church. The imagery captured that day has been processed and published on the *Encyclopedia Virginia* website and to Google Maps as a virtual tour, allowing history enthusiasts from all over the world a chance to explore beautiful Morattico Baptist Church. This is part of an initiative launched in collaboration with Google in 2013 to provide immersive, engaging, and convenient ways for visitors to EncyclopediaVirginia.org to explore Virginia's significant sites and landscapes using only their web browsers.

Encyclopedia Virginia is a free, reliable, online resource that launched in 2008 with the ambitious goal of telling all of Virginia's stories. It is a work in progress with new

Continued on page 3



prayer LIST

*Do we keep praying or rejoice in
being able to remove someone from
this list?*

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

Mae Shelton ~ 804-366-3817

Margaret Ambrose
Susan Ashburn
Jane Austin
Jennifer Routt Clark
Robbie Crowther
Eddie Dawson
Ralph Doth
Charlotte Evans
Wilson Evans and family
Wayne Fallin
Bill and Mary Fletcher
Douglas Garrett
Terri Groh
Linda Herring
James Jackson
Anna Keane
Cathy Kellum
Neal Marsh
Donald Morgan
Barbara Murray
Sammy Newton
Richard, Rosie and Rich Pruett
Sylvia Saunders
Paul Stone
William and Patricia Taylor
Rosemary Thrift
Lynn Keane Walls
Robert Wilkins
Dixie Wood
Teachers as they return to school
U S Service Men and Women
United States of America

As of 7/24/25



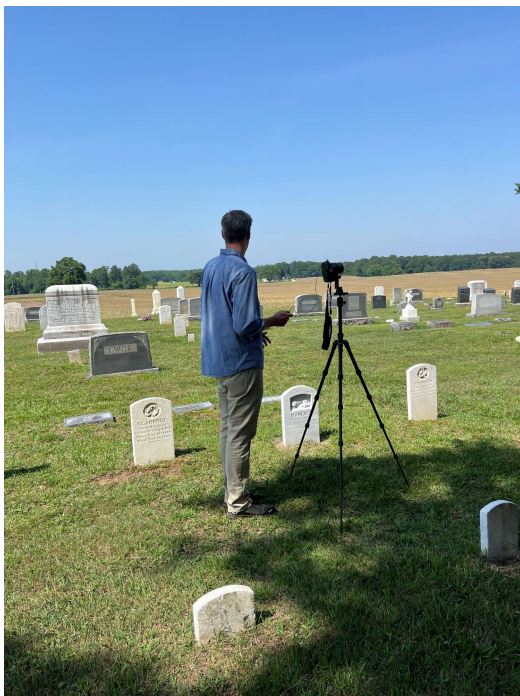
2	Patricia Taylor
4	David Humphreys
5	Karen Harcum
9	Landon Reih
10	Madison Kellum
14	Mae Shelton
14	Marie Goode
20	Connie Hudnall
21	Paul Stout
23	Sylvia Saunders
24	Charla Compton
25	Angie Haynie
26	Betty Christopher
27	Rich Pruett
29	Johnny Walston
31	Callie Souders
31	Kelli Sullivan

August 4, 1990	Kathy and Timmy Pittman
August 6	David and Connie Hudnall
August 11, 1984	David and Susan Humphreys
August 11, 1990	Michael and Darlene Nonnemacker
August 16, 1975	Ned and Marie Goode
August 21	Dick and Jo Ann Fickling

Wayson and Betty Christopher's grandson, Tom Neale was one of five James Madison University students selected for the prestigious Virginia Governor's Fellows Program. The program is a highly competitive initiative offering aspiring public servants a unique opportunity to gain hands-on experience in state government. Tom received his B.S. in Public Administration from JMU in 2024 and is now working towards his M.S. with a completion date of 2026. The students will engage with state agencies to develop a deeper understanding of public service and policymaking in Virginia. Tom will serve the Secretary of Labor.

Continued from page 1

content added frequently. To date, there are over 1,300 articles with accompanying images, audio and video clips, primary documents, maps, and virtual tours touching on Virginia’s pre-colonial history through the 21st century. Close to three million people visit the site annually. Entries such as *Baptists in Colonial Virginia* and biographies of people like *Robert Carter III* will be greatly enhanced by the addition of the Morattico Baptist Church virtual tour. And this new virtual tour will coexist on *EV* with other virtual tours of iconic Virginia churches such as *St. John’s Church* in Richmond and nearby *Historic Christ Church* in Weems. Other Virginia landmarks that are included in *EV*’s virtual tour library include the *Virginia State Capitol building*, the *Executive Mansion*, George Mason’s *Gunston Hall*, *Stratford Hall*, and the *Robert Russa Moton Museum* in Farmville, and lots more!



Peter McCormack

Continued right

Continued from left



Nothing can replace the experience of actually standing in a hushed, empty church sanctuary on a sunlit spring day, but for the curious web surfer who wants to get a sense of what it’s like to stroll down the aisle at Morattico Baptist Church, this new virtual tour is a start.

Morattico Baptist Church - Encyclopedia Virginia

~Peter McCormack
Director, Encyclopedia Virginia

Note: To navigate the virtual tour, hold down the left mouse button and drag the image to spin the angle of view to see all 360 degrees of the spot where that photograph was taken. When you click on the arrows in the picture, you move to another spot on the tour—allowing you to virtually move through the church.

If you are viewing a hardcopy of this newsletter but wish to access the *hyperlinks* referenced in Peter’s article, please visit the Morattico Baptist Church website and go to the August newsletter. Links will be available there by holding down the control key and clicking.

www.moratticobaptistchurch.org

Continued from page 1

Morattico Baptist Church. We recently had staff from Encyclopedia Virginia on site to photograph the church as part of the patchwork of Virginia history. It is moments like these, when learned educators and historians hear our story and are both intrigued by our history and motivated to share it.

We have much to be proud of at Morattico Baptist Church. In large part, our little country church helped form the religious landscape of America and certainly was a driving force in the establishment of religious freedom in the Commonwealth of Virginia and a new nation that would become the United States of America.

Blessings!
Richard



On June 22, I was given a wonderful basket of gardening goodies in recognition of my retirement after 35 years of teaching at Northumberland Elementary School. I taught 1st and 2nd grade and Multiage 1-2 for my entire career. I am so appreciative to be recognized by my church family! Even though I don't have a green thumb like my mom does, I look forward to giving it a try.

~Darlene Swaffin Nonnemacker



*Rappahannock Chapter United States
Daughters of 1812*

*You Are Cordially Invited to Attend a Grave
Marking Ceremony
For Addison Hall, Private, 92nd Virginia Militia
In Honor of Service, War of 1812*



Pastor Addison Hall

*Saturday, September 20, 2025
2:00 p.m.*

Morattico Baptist Church Cemetery

*Following the Ceremony, Please Join Us for a
Reception of Light Refreshments*



National Society
United States
Daughters of 1812



Sunday, July 6, 2025

**Ronald and Stephanie Hudson celebrated
their 40th wedding anniversary.
Credits to Roxy Fisher for the celebratory
sash and tiara.**



June was a busy month for babies in our Morattico Baptist Church family! We are excited to introduce you to them! Please pray for the these precious new lives and their families.

Ruby Jean Love was born on June 10, 2025. She is the first child of Corbin and Hannah Love of Williamsburg. Ruby weighed 8 lb 9 oz. She is the granddaughter of Jeems and Chris Love.



Ruby Jean Love

William Mason Kellum was born on Friday, June 27, 2025. Mason is the son of Will and Paige Kellum and grandson of Timmy and Kathy Pittman. Mason weighed 6 lbs 8 ozs. He was welcomed home by his big sister, Madison.



William Mason Kellum

Molly Jane Ritenour, daughter of Alex and Kyndall Ritenour was born on June 28, 2025. She weighed 7lbs 4oz and was 20 1/2 inches long. Molly was welcomed home by her big sister Easton. Her grandparents are Bill and Amy James.



Molly Jane Ritenour



Beautiful Baptisms

On the beautiful hot summer day of June 29, 2025, Morattico Church members, friends, and families gathered on the banks of Dividing Creek to witness the presence of God in so many forms ~ from the peaceful waters glistening in the sun to the birds chirping, the strum of the guitar, and the light, soothing sounds of the flute. In the shade of a tree and under tents with fans, we sang “Shall We Gather at the River?” God lent a hand by adding a slight breeze.

The most joyous part of this special church service was when Pastor Richard entered those divine waters with two people ready to profess their love for God and to cleanse and purify their souls in this spiritual rite of passage. Pastor Richard first took Tim Skelton into the water, spoke to him, and baptized him. Afterward as they hugged, the presence of God was evident and everyone cheered! Then Pastor Richard took Samantha Newton by the hand and led her into the shining waters. He spoke about Sammy growing up in Morattico Baptist Church and how much it meant to see her here today ready to take this momentous leap of faith. Then he blessed her and immersed her in the renewing river waters. The look of peace and joy on the faces of Tim and Sammy was truly moving to all present. Tim and Sammy were welcomed with open arms as they emerged from the Holy waters. We all rejoiced to see these two embrace their beliefs and embark on their faith journeys. We were blessed to be a part of such a sacred ceremony.

Continued on page 7



Tim Skelton



Samantha Newton



Terry Brown



Continued from page 6

As is true in Morattico Baptist Church, we celebrated by breaking bread together. A true spread of delicious food, conversations, and laughter were enjoyed by all.



Page Carlson and Charlotte Swaffin



Jordan Abbott and Emma Smith



Many thanks to Brenda Gilbert for sharing her lovely home for this Holy occasion. The presence of God was felt by all.

~Darlene Nonnemacker



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

Calendar events:

August 3rd	Glen Fallin will sing
August 7 th	Purple Heart Day
August 17th	MBC Band
August 30th	MBC Clean Up Day 8 am
August 31	5th Sunday
September 7	Communion Sunday
September 13	Historic Church Tour 9 am to 3 pm
September 18	Business Meeting 7 pm
September 20th	United States Daughters of 1812 at 2 pm
	Grave Marking Ceremony for
	Addison Hall Private 92nd Virginia Militia
	(See page 4 for details)

Bold = MBC event

Morattico Baptist Church

Richard C. Abbott, Pastor

924 Morattico Church Road

Post Office Box 228

Kilmarnock, Virginia 22482

phone: 804-577-3043

e-mail: pastor@moratticobaptistchurch.org

website: moratticobaptistchurch.org

Facebook: The Morattico Baptist Church

NEWSLETTER DEPARTMENT:

newsletter@moratticobaptistchurch.org

Newsletter Editor: Kathy Pittman

Proofreader: Patricia Taylor

Assistant: Lisa Holcomb

Staff writers: Stephanie Hudson and Jordan Abbott

DEACONS:

Linda Herring, Head of Deacons

Jane Austin

Ginny Barnes

Terri Groh

Ronald Hudson

David Humphreys

Jeems Love

Peyton Smith