



Morattico Baptist Church
MBC2028
Celebrating 250 Years 1778-2028

**November
2025**

MORATTICO BAPTIST CHURCH

THE HILL



FROM THE PASTOR

This newsletter is very special to me. On October 12th the Morattico Baptist Church family honored me for Pastor Appreciation Sunday. We enjoyed a wonderful luncheon and I received two of the most incredible gifts ever. The first gift was a Chad Bishop produced replica of our church house. It is designed to be a bird house, but it's entirely too special to hang outside. I have "perched" it in a prominent place in our living room. The second was an enlarged photo of an Abbott Brothers, Inc. oyster can. I shared the story behind the oyster can, which in a nutshell is that my father and uncle began an oyster and crab business on Carter's Creek in 1949. The photo was of a metal can that we used until the 1980's. There are very, very few of them around and this photo is also going to make an appearance in our living room.

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NATIONAL BIBLE WEEK

National Bible Week is a longstanding American tradition that celebrates the enduring influence of the Bible in personal and public life. Its origins date back to 1941 during a time of global unrest and uncertainty as World War II loomed. The initiative was spearheaded by the National Bible Association, a group formed in 1940 by business and professional leaders in New York City who believed in the Bible's power to offer hope and guidance during difficult times.

The first National Bible Week was observed from December 8 to 14, 1941, strategically aligned with Thanksgiving week to encourage national reflection and gratitude. President Franklin D. Roosevelt played a pivotal role in launching the observance, offering his endorsement and even penning a personal message in a special addition of the New Testament distributed to U. S. soldiers.

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Please
Pray
for...



Margaret Ambrose
Mike Baker
Betty Christopher
Jennifer Routt Clark
Sherry Comer
Brenda Crowther
Eddie Dawson
Ralph Doth
Charlotte Evans
Jessica Frere
Douglas Garrett
Terri Groh
Linda Herring
Anna Keane
Cathy Kellum
The family of Neal Marsh
Donald Morgan
Sammy Newton
Richard, Rosie and Rich Pruett
Sheila Rollins
Tom and Sylvia Saunders
Paul Stone
Fran Stout
Paul Stout
William and Patricia Taylor
Rosemary Thrift
Meredith Tompkins
Randy Tydings
Lynn Keane Walls
Jay Whay
Robert Wilkins
For Revival

*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



NOVEMBER

birthdays & anniversaries

2 Page Carlson
5 Dustin Crenshaw
6 Wendy Deihl
7 Michael Nonnemacker
9 Jordan Abbott
16 Darlene Nonnemacker
16 Robert Nolting
16 David Hudson
26 Kim Pulley
29 Brenda Crowther
29 Crystal Whay

November 16, 1968
Richard and Rosie Pruett



The Season of
Advent
READING PLAN

Hope

◊ Day 1: Jeremiah 29:10-14
◊ Day 2: Romans 15:8-13
◊ Day 3: 1 Peter 1:3-12
◊ Day 4: Hebrews 10:19-39
◊ Day 5: Psalm 33
◊ Day 6: Titus 2:11- 3:8

Joy

◊ Day 13: Philippians 4:4-9
◊ Day 14: Psalm 16
◊ Day 15: James 1:2-18
◊ Day 16: Psalm 30
◊ Day 17: Luke 2:8-20
◊ Day 18: John 15:1-11

Peace

◊ Day 7: Isaiah 9:1-7
◊ Day 8: John 14:1-7, 25-31
◊ Day 9: John 16:25-33
◊ Day 10: Romans 5:1-11
◊ Day 11: Ephesians 2:11-22
◊ Day 12: Colossians 3:1-17

Love

◊ Day 19: Micah 7:18-20
◊ Day 20: Romans 8:31-39
◊ Day 21: John 3:16-21
◊ Day 22: 1 John 4:7-21
◊ Day 23: Philippians 2:1-11
◊ Day 24: 2 Thessalonians 2:13 - 3:
◊ Day 25: Ephesians 2:1-10



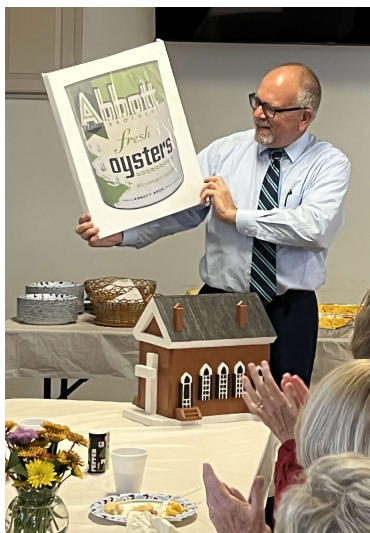
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PASTOR APPRECIATION SUNDAY

Pastor Appreciation Day is a time that MBC recognizes Richard and sincerely thanks him for all that he does for our congregation and community. His leadership, compassion and unwavering faith have made a lasting impact on our church.

When our pastor Craig Smith's health began to decline often times Janet would call Richard and say, "would you please fill in for Craig this morning in the pulpit?" Richard always answered the call and spoke from his heart. It was very apparent to many of us that when Craig stepped down, it would be an incredibly smooth transition to ask Richard Abbott to lead our flock. Richard had other opinions about that! After months of prayer, conversations with God and many phone calls from the congregation, Richard decided to take a leap and say yes!!



Then COVID hit and hit hard! Businesses and schools shut down, churches closed their doors and used social media to preach the word and a dark sadness took over the world and even started to affect our little bit of the Northern Neck. The first Sunday that Virginia officially shut down, Ronald and I were drinking our coffee and watching the news at about 6:15 AM and Kathy Pittman called. She said just because we can't worship inside the church doesn't mean we can't improvise and have our services outside. Now we were on a mission! The next Sunday the sermon was given from the side steps of the church and the next Sunday we moved under the oak trees. Some folks stayed in their car and listened on the radio speakers, others enjoyed sitting under the trees. Not long after that, we upgraded to a tractor trailer stage! During the next several months the congregation grew and grew and grew! Since other churches were not meeting in person, this opened the door for many of our neighbors to join us by leading the singing and hearing the Word at MBC. We will always look back at that period of time with sadness for those we lost and pride that our little church on the hill persevered and grew!

As a church, we say thank you Richard for preaching truth, guiding us spiritually and being a source of encouragement. Your dedication does not go unnoticed and we are truly blessed to have you as our shepherd.

We were blessed to have a great luncheon on October 12th to celebrate our pastor. He also received a gorgeous hand-made birdhouse replica of our church and a canvas print of the original Abbott Brothers oyster can. And of course, in true Richard fashion, he cried! Again, we are so blessed!

~Stephanie Hudson

PASTOR APPRECIATION SUNDAY



Sandra Hudson, Jane Austin, Susan Humphreys, Melinda Lewis and Kelli Sullivan (l-r)



Martin Smith



Ronald Hudson

PASTOR APPRECIATION SUNDAY



Stephanie Hudson and Mae Shelton



Curley Harcum

~Photos by Debbie Dodson



2025 CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Morattico Baptist Church has many long-standing traditions, especially around significant Christian celebrations. During Advent our church is decorated with wreaths, garlands of green, nativity creches, Christmas trees, and poinsettia plants. Our sanctuary is filled with the beauty and spirit of the season.

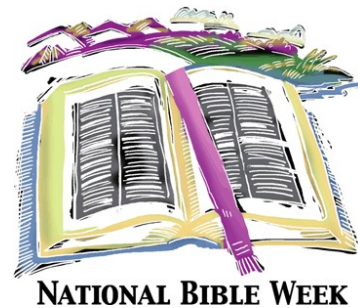
Once again, we will have our Christmas Poinsettia Sale. You will be able to purchase Christmas poinsettia(s) that will grace our sanctuary during Advent. Your specified dedication for each poinsettia in celebration or memory of a loved one will appear in the Sunday bulletins during Advent and in our newsletter *The Hill*.

After Christmas Eve services you may bring your poinsettia home to enjoy during the holiday. Plants that are not picked on the 24th will be used in the church on the following Sundays.

Pricing and plant selections were not yet available at time of publication of this edition of *The Hill*. Order forms will be available in the Sunday bulletin on Sunday November 9th and 16th.

Contact Anita Hart at anitahart2577@gmail.com if you have any questions about the poinsettia sale.

~MBC Flower Committee



Continued from page 1

A dramatic movement in history of the event occurred on December 7, 1941, when a Bible reading broadcast over NBC was interrupted by news of the attack on Pearl Harbor. In response, NBC asked the National Bible Association to continue reading scripture throughout the day to comfort a shocked and grieving nation.

Since its inception, National Bible Week has been observed annually during the week of Thanksgiving. Every U. S. president since Roosevelt has issued a proclamation recognizing the week and many governors and local officials have followed suit.

Today National Bible Week continues to serve as a time for Americans to reflect on the spiritual and cultural significance of the Bible. It encourages individuals and communities to engage with scripture, share its teachings, and find unity and hope in the timeless messages.

*Excerpts taken from:
Christian Heritage Fellowship
National Today*

MBC FIELD TRIP



Pictured left to right:

Linda Herring, Boni Hall, Mae Shelton, Anke Longest, Roxy Fisher, Debra Whaley, Barbara Howdershell, Patricia Gordon, Bill Gordon, Stephanie Hudson, Jeems Love and in front Chris Love

Ronald Hudson missed the photo as he was parking the van.

On Saturday, October 18, 2025, a group of Morattico members and friends went on the first of hopefully many field trips! Ronald Hudson did a fantastic job driving the precious cargo to Charlottesville for a great lunch and on to Lynchburg to enjoy four hours of spectacular gospel music by the Gaither Homecoming Group. Mark Lowery blessed the congregation with his lovely song, "Mary, Did You Know?" which brought everyone to their feet. The Martin Family sang some new and old favorites, as well as The Isaacs! Bill and Gloria Gaither showed that age is truly just a number as they praised God through word and song! The laughter and friendship enjoyed that day will be remembered for many years! Future plans were discussed about visiting the Museum of the Bible in Washington, DC and the Ark in Kentucky.

~Stephanie Hudson



Campbell.

"The last thing I remember is Thanksgiving dinner. I asked for wings."



I LOVE THIS CHURCH!!!

Patricia Taylor

FROM THE PASTOR

Continued from page 1

I truly appreciate you all. When God led me to the pulpit of our little church, I had no idea that I would fall so deeply in love with the Scriptures and with teaching them. But what I appreciate most is the kindness and love that you all share with me, despite my imperfections and flaws!!

The newsletter also speaks to National Bible Week which is November 16th – 22nd. The 2025 theme is “God’s Word: Source of HOPE.” As you read about it, take heart in knowing that the Word of God is inerrant, infallible and the source of wisdom and hope. The Word of God is our source of hope and inspiration so please commit to prayerfully reading the Bible every day.

Again, thank you all for supporting me and allowing me to grow in spirit and truth as your pastor. We serve an amazing God and I thank Him every day for leading me to serve you.

Thank you and may God richly bless you!
Richard



Packing Party
November 17th
10:00 am
At the church

Questions??
Contact Linda Herring
or Janet Smith

MBC is collecting items for
Operation Christmas Child!
Boys & girls, ages 5-9

IDEAS

- Ball & pump
- Stuffed animal
- Larger toy
- Jump rope
- Craft kits
- Blocks
- Slinky
- Kaleidoscope
- Toy cars
- Comb/brush
- Toothbrush
- Washcloth
- Bar soap
- Stickers
- Pens/Pencils/ Crayons
- Index cards
- Notebooks
- Hats
- Sunglasses
- Flashlight
- Cold weather items
- Puzzles
- Coloring books

NOT ALLOWED

- Toothpaste
- Soap of any kind
- Lotions & liquids
- Used or damaged items
- War-related items
- Anything camouflage
- Gum or food items
- Religious or political literature
- Medicines
- Aerosol cans
- Sharp or fragile items

Items
due
11/16/25



GIVE THANKS



Help us reach our goal of
200 boxes and 20 online boxes



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

Calendar events:

November 2 nd	Daylight Savings Time ends
November 2nd	Communion Sunday
November 9th	Veterans Day Service
November 11 th	Veterans Day
November 17th	Operation Christmas Child Packing Party
November 20th	Business Meeting 7pm
November 26th	Thanksgiving Eve Service 7pm
November 27 th	Thanksgiving Day
November 30th	First Sunday of Advent and 5th Sunday Nov
December 5th	Greening of the Church 9:30 am
December 19th	Streets of Gold Christmas program 5pm
December 24th	Christmas Eve Service 7pm

Bold = MBC event

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