



Morattico Baptist Church
MBC2028
Celebrating 250 Years 1778-2028

DECEMBER
2025

MORATTICO BAPTIST CHURCH

THE HILL



As your pastor prepares this article, we are working diligently to shore up our guest list and menu for our annual Christmas morning breakfast! Thanksgiving and Christmas are the two days each year that our family gathers and fellowships in familial love. We are blessed. And because our little family is getting smaller with each passing year, my appreciation for them grows accordingly.

Gathering for meals and fellowship was important to Jesus too. After all, even the Son of God needed to eat! In fact, many of Jesus' most meaningful messages happened around the table where He was surrounded by His extended family.

It was at a wedding banquet in Cana that Jesus first revealed Himself as a man of divine power by turning water into wine. After the call of Matthew, Jesus went to Matthew's house for dinner with "sinners"

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Tables *for* Eight

Beginning right after the holidays!

Let's meet for a meal. Everyone enjoys fellowship and food. Our church wants to build community and foster connections among our church family. Can you think of a better way to get to know one another?

We will gather at different homes with eight guests, including the host/hostess. This is not a time for theological studies or culinary perfection, but fun and laughter. Volunteers are needed to host a meal in their homes and people who are interested in attending should sign up. The host will provide the protein (main dish) and the guests may be asked to bring an assigned simple side dish or dessert. Let's do this and get to know each other in a more intimate casual social gathering.

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Prayer LIST

Betty Christopher
Sherry Comer
Brenda Crowther
Eddie Dawson
Ralph Doth
Charlotte Evans
Douglas Garrett
Linda Gordon
Terri Groh
The family of Linda Hall
Linda Herring
Susan Humphreys
Anna Keane
Cathy Kellum
David Marsh
Donald Morgan
Sammy Newton
Richard, Rosie and Rich Pruett
Sheila Rollins
Tom and Sylvia Saunders
Ginger Steffey
Paul Stone
Fran Stout
Paul Stout
William and Patricia Taylor
Meredith Tompkins
Lynn Keane Walls
Robert Wilkins

Those who are alone during the holidays
US Service Men and Women

*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 Outreach Report:

53 Thanksgiving cards were sent to all
band members and singers as well as those
on the prayer list.



DECEMBER birthdays

3 Ronnie Dodson
4 Joe Souders
13 Carolyn Whay
14 Rosie Pruett
24 Emma Smith
27 Lisa Holcomb
29 Nick Nonnemacker
30 Nathaniel Barnes
31 Kim Stout



Tables *for* Eight

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Oh wait! There is one more thing... There will be one question at your dinner plate. Each person will read their question and answer it. There is no need to study. Questions will be easy ice breakers to foster conversation. There is no a test, no pass or fail. Just plain fun and fellowship.

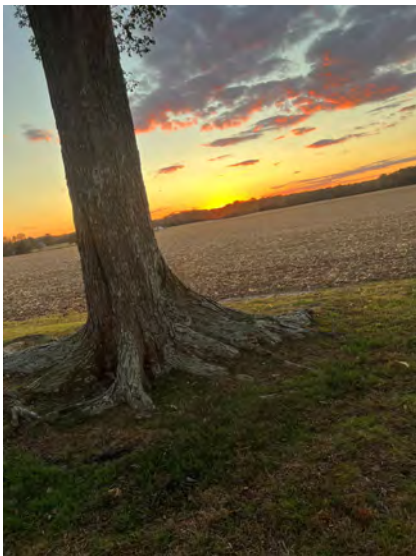
**Contact Chris Love
804-580-0202
to sign up to host or to attend
(or both!)**



On Friday evening, October 24, 2025, a group of MBC members and friends shared lots of laughs, delicious chili, roasted hot dogs and s'mores under the oak trees at church. There's just something special about eating a hot dog or marshmallow toasted over an open fire! Jeems Love and David Humphreys led a fun fireside sing-a-long which was enjoyed by everyone aged 3 to 83!

Chris Love made sure that everyone in attendance witnessed God's beautiful sunset and gorgeous colors of his majestic skyline! This event was hosted by the Missions Committee and was the first of many fireside gatherings.

~Stephanie Hudson



Wayson Christopher and Timmy Pittman catching up on old times



Jeems and Chris Love roasting marshmallows



Rhonda Tompkins and Jo Ann Fickling making s'mores

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and tax collectors.” It was at this meal that Jesus spoke those well know words “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.” (Matthew 8: 9-13)

Also, the feedings of the five thousand and four thousand when Jesus revealed His divine power to many at one time. (Matthew 14; Matthew 15) And of course, there was the Last Supper in which Jesus unveiled the completion of His earthly ministry during the Passover meal. (Matthew 26)

As you celebrate the holidays with family and friends, be aware of the importance of the experience and give thanks for every meal. I feel certain that Jesus enjoyed a good meal, and as we indulge in the blessings that we have been granted, keep Him in your thoughts. It is by God’s grace that we are saved by the blood of Jesus and there is nothing more important than this to remember as you gather at the table.

*Keep falsehood and lies far from me;
give me neither poverty nor riches,
but give me only my daily bread. —
Proverbs 30:8*

Blessings, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

~Pastor Richard Abbott



Attention everyone who loves to make a joyful noise - Claybrook Baptist Church, The Island Church and Morattico Baptist Church will meet on Saturday afternoon, December 13th. We will visit Twin Branch Wellness and Recovery for Women, Commonwealth Assisted Living, The Lancashire and Rappahannock Westminter Canterbury.

Claybrook has invited all carolers to join them for soup, sandwiches, etc. at their church at the completion of caroling. This is an excellent opportunity to share Christmas joy and our love for Christ with our neighbors who may not be able to attend worship services.

More details to come. Keep an eye out for an e-mail.

~Stephanie Hudson
Music Committee





Tables *for* Eight

The ancient Egyptians were known for their lavish feasts and elaborate table settings. They believed that dining was an important social event, and they took great care in preparing their meals and presenting them to their guests. The 20th century saw a shift in dining etiquette, with a move towards more casual and informal settings.

Table for Eight is a fellowship ministry designed to help church members grow closer through shared meals and conversation. The concept is simple: eight people gather around a table to enjoy food, friendship, and getting to know one another.

Each group of eight meets for a meal in someone's home. The groups are intentionally mixed so that members can meet new people, build relationships across generations, and strengthen the sense of community within the church family.

There's no formal program—just time to talk, laugh, and share life together. Some groups choose to open with a short prayer but the main goal is simple fellowship.

Table for Eight turns mealtime into ministry—creating space for stories, encouragement, and lasting friendships centered on Christ's love.

BONFIRE 2025



Ronald Hudson surprised everyone by cooking his own dinner! (probably a first!)



Bryer Walston, Madison Kellum and Colter Walston (l-r)



Anita Hart and Rhonda Tompkins



IN MEMORY OF:

Tyler Crandall by Marianette Crandall
Lisa's parents, Frank and Winnie Corns by Lisa and Tim Skelton
Our son Jordan Matthew Moore by Cyndi and John Moore
Our daughter Crystal Michelle Lyles by Cyndi and John Moore
Dr. Donald Longest by Anke A. Longest
Margaret & Luther Welch, Rebecca & Dr. Harvey Goode by Ned & Marie Goode
Fred Swaffin by Charlotte Swaffin
Lewis V. Shelton by Mae S. Shelton
Betty Roberson Jones by Paul and Carolyn Foster
Marion Foster by Paul and Carolyn Foster
Our grandparents by Joey and Tish Scott
Pete and Thom Stout by the Stout family
The Dodson family and the Carter family by Debbie Dodson
Rhonda Herring Barth Gone but never forgotten by Linda Herring
H. Howard Whay by his daughter, Crystal Whay
Family members that have gone on before me by Ewell (Curly) Harcum
Robbie Crowther by Shawn and Scott Rogers
William (Bill) Spencer, Betty Gay Boyle and Dwight Gay by Eddie and Beth Gay
Reverend Craig Smith by his family
Dennis L. Hart by Anita Hart
My parents by Brenda Crowther
My son by Brenda Crowther
Fred Swaffin and Patsy Cayton by Michael and Darlene Nonnemaker
Joe and Mary Anne Nonnemaker by Michael and Darlene Nonnemaker
Eunice Whittaker and Pat Swaffin by Michael and Darlene Nonnemaker
Robbie Crowther by Michael and Darlene Nonnemaker
Our parents and siblings by Dennis and Brenda Whitcomb
James Albert Fisher by Roxy Fisher
Eva Jones Fisher by Roxy Fisher
Elizabeth Ann Fisher by Roxy Fisher
Michelle Ashburn by Lynn Walls
William (Billy) Benson by Butch Benson
Alice Fallin and Morris Fallin by Glenn Fallin and Judi Schocken
Jeanne Luttrell by Page Carlson
Nell Brothers by Page Carlson
Mary Simmons by Richard and Jan Abbott
Ruby Abbott and Walter Abbott by Richard and Jan Abbott
Carole Sullivan with love by Kelli and family
Calvin Lewis with love by Kelli and Shannon
Craig Smith lovingly given by John and Hazel Farmer



IN HONOR OF:

Our granddaughters, Maya and Kinsley by Stephanie and Ronald Hudson
Mimi and Granddaddy, we love you, by Kinsley Hudson and Maya Stevens

Our grandchildren by James and Geri Vick

Tom Groh by Terri Groh

Twin Branch workers and volunteers by Peggy and Bob Nolting

Our parents by Joey and Tish Scott

Mary Spencer by Eddie and Beth Gay

Charlotte Swaffin by Michael and Darlene Nonnemaker

Richard Abbott lovingly given by John and Hazel Farmer



During Advent our church sanctuary is beautifully festive with wreaths, garlands of green, nativity creches, Christmas trees, and all the beautiful poinsettia plants. Each poinsettia was purchased and dedicated in honor or memory of someone very special. Listed above are those special dedications.

The Flower Committee wishes to thank everyone for their generous support of the poinsettia sale. And we wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2026.

God bless you! And may God continue to bless this church!

*~Anita Hart, Page Carlson, Shelley Ritter,
Ginny Barnes, Beth Gay, and Wendy Deihl
The Flower Committee*





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

Calendar events:

December 6th	Greening of the Church 9:30 am
December 13th	Christmas Caroling time TBD (afternoon)
December 19th	Streets of Gold Christmas program 5pm
December 24th	Christmas Eve Service 6pm

Bold = MBC event

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