



# Morattico Baptist Church

# MBC2028

*Celebrating 250 Years 1778-2028*

**JULY 2026**

**Anniversary Countdown**  
**18 Months**

**MORATTICO BAPTIST CHURCH**

# THE HILL



Happy Birthday, America!

In this 250<sup>th</sup> year of our nation I can't help but reflect on the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary. I was all of thirteen years old and was completely caught up in the celebration and revelry of the milestone year. One of my fondest memories is of a July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration held at the Lancaster Courthouse. Across the street from the courthouse is the Old Jail and behind that a large field. It was in that field that several of my peers dressed in period costumes of British and Colonial soldiers and re-enacted a Revolutionary War battle. It was very hot and humid in the middle of the day and we had a great time anyway. There was a picnic with lots of watermelon and lemonade following the re-enactment.

Our nation is very different from 1976, yet our resilience and perseverance as a nation remains. Our Founding Fathers created a constitution that is unlike any other in the world because it invokes the name of

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The American Revolution began on April 18, 1775 with the "Shot Heard 'round the World" when British soldiers and Colonial militia engaged at Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts.

As the Colonists became more courageous and emboldened to self-govern, there was at the same time a growing disdain for the established church, the Church of England. As the 1770's progressed, more and more Baptist, Presbyterian and Methodist preachers were finding their way into the colonies to share the Gospel of Jesus, and by these brave preachers were the seeds of religious freedom planted.

The Northern Neck of Virginia was not immune to the growing flames of religious freedom and perhaps it was in such far-off places that the desire for freedom was greatest. The Northern Neck was not exempt from British taxes and tariffs, nor was it spared the

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# Prayer List

Margaret Ambrose  
Sherri Comer  
Brenda Crowther  
Eddie Dawson  
Charlie Dixon  
Ralph Doth  
Charlotte Evans  
Pat Ferreira  
John Gilbert  
Linda Gordon  
Tom and Terri Groh  
Virginia Hatton  
Lloyd B Hubbard  
Mike and Crystal Kappel  
Cathy Kellum  
Robbie McDaniel  
Richard, Rosie and Rich Pruett  
Jimmy Robertson  
Taylor and Matt Robinson  
Sheila Rollins  
Sylvia Saunders  
Jude Schario  
Paul Stout  
Charlotte Swaffin  
William and Patricia Taylor  
Gail Thompson  
Robert Wilkins  
Jimmy Williams

*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*

*The Outreach Committee sent out 28 cards in May and June.*



1	Dennis Whitcomb
2	Daniel Cervera
5	Ted Tompkins
8	Colter Walston
11	Brian Barnes
16	Timothy Skelton
23	Sandra Hudson
24	Janet Smith
26	Kathy Pittman
27	Adley Nonnemacker
29	Don Gill
30	Jeems Love

July 22      David and Sandra Hudson



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Almighty God as the provider of our rights and freedoms. Until that foundation is destroyed by politicians, America will remain resilient and strong.

And so, as we enter the 250<sup>th</sup> year of these United States, we lift her in prayer; we lift our policymakers in prayer and we pray for the future of this amazing nation. So find the time to celebrate America in July and every month after because God has blessed us as a nation and as a people. Take nothing for granted and remember the words of Ronald Reagan ~ “Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. It must be fought for and defended by each generation.”

May God bless the United States of America  
Happy Fourth of July!!

Pastor Abbott



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firm hand of the Anglican Church. The anti-British sentiment was very strong in 1775 when the War began. Lancaster County records record many names of men who enlisted in the Colonial Militia in the first years of the war, which elicits a sense of duty by our native sons to defeat the British and establish independence for the Northern Neck. It is clear that the Northern Neck was a stronghold for freedom from British rule and from the Church of England.

The religious freedom movement in the Northern Neck was begun by the Baptist Colonists in 1778, when a small band of people from Lancaster, Northumberland and Richmond counties gathered at the home of Alexander Hunton and formed the first Baptist Church in the Northern Neck, Morattico Baptist Church.

We often overlook the bravery of this undertaking. British troops were stationed throughout the Northern Neck and were highly intolerant of those itinerant preachers. Many were arrested for preaching the Gospel without a license and disturbing the peace. Many were beaten and imprisoned. Yet, in this dangerous environment, our first pastor, Lewis Lunsford and founding member Alexander Hunton led the establishment of a Baptist church. In the midst of the Revolution, in a time of economic hardship and fear, in a time of persecution, Morattico Baptist emerged as a source of calm through faith in Christ Jesus. As we prepare for our

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church's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary, on the heels of our nation's 250<sup>th</sup>, we praise God for allowing us to continue this mission. May God grant us bravery of those early members to fulfill the Great Commission and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ for another 250 years.

~Pastor Richard Abbott





Tessa Eileen Humphreys was born on May 25<sup>th</sup> to Phillip and Alanna Humphreys. She weighed 8 lbs 12 ozs. Tessa is the granddaughter of David and Susan Humphreys and Joe and Jean Dailey. The new family lives in Varina.



## TWIN BRANCH MISSIONS

Let's give a BIG shout out to Debbie Dodson and ACE Hardware. Debbie scored the swings from ACE for half price to be donated to Twin Branch Women's Rehabilitation Center by Morattico Baptist Church. We also want to thank Bobby Smith for repairing the warped A-frame leg. My go-to guys also deserve cheers for picking up, delivering and setting up the swings. Thank you Eddie Gay, David Hudson, Ray Britt and Jeems Love. The staff and residents at Twin Branch feel appreciated and loved by Morattico Baptist Church. It takes a village and our village rocks! The Lord is good all the time.

~ Chris Love



In June our dear friend and Deacon Peyton Smith headed off to USAF boot camp. We ask that you pray for Peyton and his family. If you would like to send Peyton a card you may do so at the address below. Please understand that he can **ONLY** receive letters. **NO** care packages. He graduates July 22-23 so you need to get cards in the mail very soon.

AB Smith, Peyton R  
322 TRS / FLT 537  
1320 Truemper Street  
Lackland AFB, TX 78236





Altar Flowers

If you wish to donate an arrangement in remembrance or celebration of someone special, please contact the person assigned to the month in which you wish to provide flowers.

**July** Wendy Deihl 804-436-3144  
[wendydeihl@yahoo.com](mailto:wendydeihl@yahoo.com)

**August** Ginny Barnes 804-724-3841  
[ginnybarnes119@gmail.com](mailto:ginnybarnes119@gmail.com)

**Sept** Beth Gay 804-436-5724  
[bethg0215@gmail.com](mailto:bethg0215@gmail.com)

With your help the committee will continue to provide flowers for the Sanctuary every Sunday. Questions about flower donations, contact Anita Hart, 804-761-5994  
[anitahart2577@gmail.com](mailto:anitahart2577@gmail.com).

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

*Remember,*

*“A flower is a gift from Heaven”*

### Remembrances and Celebrations

The Flower Committee wishes to thank the following individuals who provided flowers for the Sanctuary March through June 2026:

*In celebration and honor of:*

- ❖ In gratitude for our “little country church” by the MBC Flower Committee
- ❖ Stephanie Hudson’s birthday by Kathy Pittman and family

*In remembrance of:*

- ❖ In loving memory of Lewis Shelton by Mae Shelton
- ❖ Betty Ward Crandall who has deep roots in Morattico Baptist history



### Member of the Month

Daniel and Amy started attending Morattico Baptist Church in March 2025 and became members in October 2025. This couple brings warmth and friendliness to everyone around them. They currently live in Gloucester and are big outdoor lovers. They love to go fishing and explore beaches looking for shark teeth.

They are both self-employed. Daniel owns and operates Coastal Ironworks in Tappahannock, and he specializes in machining and welding. Amy owns and operates Shoreline Shine, a commercial cleaning company.

Since becoming members of MBC, their faith has grown stronger. They look forward to Bible study and church every Sunday. They feel so blessed the Lord led them to MBC.

In the words of Mrs. Taylor:  
"WE LOVE THIS CHURCH!"





On Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup> Morattico Baptist Church honored its graduates. Although many could not be there due to other obligations the congregation prayed for each of them as they enter a new chapter in their lives.



McKenzie C. Clark graduated from Middlesex High School. She plans to attend Rappahannock Community College and become a veterinary assistant. McKenzie is the granddaughter of Page Carlson.



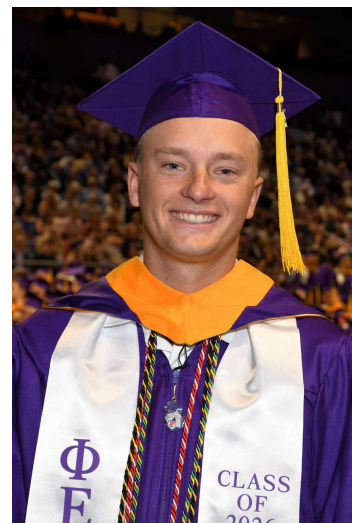
Alisa Hart graduated from Bridgewater College with a Bachelors in Environmental Studies. She is the granddaughter of Anita Hart.



Adam Grey graduated from James Madison University with a Bachelors in Communication. He is the son of Tim and Lisa Skelton.



Thomas Christopher Neal, Jr. graduated from James Madison University with a Masters in Public Administration. Tom is the grandson of Wayson and Betty Christopher.



Eli Pittman graduated from James Madison University on May 14, 2026, with a Bachelors of Science degree in Kinesiology. He will attend graduate school at High Point University in North Carolina. Eli is the son of Travis and Susan Pittman and the grandson of Charlotte Swaffin.



*We love our church!*

## And why I love mine...

From the first time I walked into Morattico Baptist Church a few years ago, attending a “choir rehearsal” thanks to Terri Groh inviting me to a church that really did not have a choir, I was struck by the mystery and grace that the building itself affords anyone who enters. The history, architecture and grounds alone tell a story as the wind so often blows on the hill. As I lived for many years in Switzerland, I wondered exactly where the hill was. A rise, perhaps, and corn fields, but not what I could imagine was landscape worthy of the hill name.

That first evening I sang the Lord’s Prayer before I left, as God had asked me to... strange thing, to be sure, but I have learned not to argue with God for very long. Richard, our amazing pastor, invited me to a business meeting being held the same night. I declined as I had to go home to fix my husband dinner.

On the Sunday morning following I joined the merry band of singers, and became a part of those worshipers who were fairly few in number compared to our current attendance.

After the service Richard Abbott spent at least an hour talking with me and answering my many questions about the church. I was

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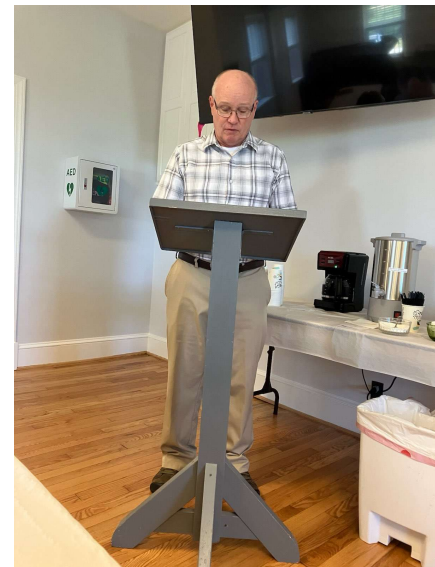
## And why I love mine...

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definitely searching as with the Pandemic my husband and I were going to be living in White Stone full-time. I was hungry for The Word, and here it was being preached.

My first reason for loving this church is the way the Gospel is being preached, Sunday after Sunday, and during the Bible study preceding the service. There are many reasons I jump up and say how much I love this church. I feel compelled by the joy that I feel as the Word is being spread. We who are there, in person, or online, are asked to share what we have heard with those God sends our way. May we all do that as the Lord leads.

~Patricia Stone Taylor



On Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup> MBC hosted a Men’s Breakfast. The men in attendance were treated to a good ole southern breakfast. After breakfast, Jeff Hayman and his father Sonny, both retired United States Army, spoke to the group about their life together.



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

**Calendar events:**

July 4<sup>th</sup> Independence Day  
**July 5<sup>th</sup> MBC Band and Communion**  
**July 12<sup>th</sup> Baptism Sunday and Cindy Moore singing**  
**July 16<sup>th</sup> Business Meeting 7pm**

**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](mailto:pastor@moratticobaptistchurch.org)

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

Facebook: The Morattico Baptist Church

**NEWSLETTER DEPARTMENT:**

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

Newsletter Editor: Kathy Pittman

Proofreader: Patricia Taylor

Assistant: Lisa Holcomb

Staff writers: Jordan Abbott, Stephanie Hudson,

Darlene Nonnemacker and Rhonda Tompkins

**DEACONS:**

Linda Herring, Head of Deacons

Jane Austin

Terri Groh

Ronald Hudson

Jeems Love

Peyton Smith