



Morattico Baptist Church

MBC2028

Celebrating 250 Years 1778-2028

SEPTEMBER 2026

Anniversary Countdown
16 Months

MORATTICO BAPTIST CHURCH

THE HILL

FROM THE PASTOR

I love summer. It's my favorite season despite the heat. Summer has been my favorite season since I was a young boy swimming in the Rappahannock River at White Stone Beach or Windmill Point. Fishing, water skiing, going to the beach, picking crabs on our backyard picnic table, working with my father on his workboat, watching the Tides Inn's Fourth of July fireworks on Carter's Creek from dad's workboat were all part of the magic of summer. We didn't have much in the way of material things but we embraced the vast opportunities that this beautiful area provides.

I admit that I become a little melancholy when summer comes to a close and the September air turns crisp, school buses return, and the sky takes on the grey hues of fall. You see, I have traded in my water skis for gardening tools. Swimming in the Rappahannock has given way to sitting on

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PEYTON'S ADVENTURES



I would like to start off by thanking each and every one of the members of Morattico Baptist Church for all you have done for Peyton. He has grown so much while in your church. We are proud of the leadership roles he took on over the last year and I know you missed him as much as we did while he was in Texas.

As many of you might know, Peyton wanted to go into Special Reconnaissance (Special Forces) so he had to get to a certain fitness level before he entered Basic Training for the Air Force. The week before Mother's Day, he made the cut and hoped he would have time to improve his scores before heading off to Lackland Air Force Base in Texas.

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Prayer List

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

Margaret Ambrose
Mark Clingan
Sherri Comer
Eddie Dawson
Charlotte Evans
Wayne Fallin
Pat Ferreira
Bill and Mary Fletcher
Sharon Gordon
Nina Page Gresham
Family of Lloyd B Hubbard
Mike and Crystal Kappel
Cathy Kellum
Kim and Ian McManamey
Rosie and Rich Pruett
Sheila Rollins
Sylvia Saunders
Peyton Smith
Jason Souders
Paul Stout
Charlotte Swaffin
William and Patricia Taylor
Jim and Gerry Vick
Robert Wilkins
Our students who have started a new year
Teacher, professors and admin staff

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

Mae Shelton ~ 804-366-3817



1	Charlotte Swaffin
3	Mary Fletcher
7	Kendra Simpson
8	Suzanne Souders
9	Frances Stout
10	Glenn Fallin
10	Lisa Skelton
18	Tiffany Walston
19	Bill James
23	David Hudnall
24	Lincoln Saunders

September 2
Logan and Ashley Nonnemacker

September 7
Clay and Lisa Holcomb

September 10
Charlie and Jane Austin

September 13
Paul and Kim Stout

September 20
Dennis and Brenda Whitcomb

September 28
Suzanne and Joe Souders

September 30
Brian and Ginny Barnes



Morattico Baptist Honors Scholars

The Morattico Baptist Scholarship Committee recently honored eight scholars: From left are Gavin Simpson, Landon Reihs, Caroline Neale, Sarah Hart, Madison Hart, and McKenzie Clark.

Others include Angel Gagnon and Addison Gordon.

~Darlene Nonnemacker



Scholarships Awarded



McKenzie Claire Clark- McKenzie is the granddaughter of Page Carlson. She will be attending Rappahannock Community College.

Madison Grace Hart- Madison is the granddaughter of Anita Hart. She will be attending Shenandoah University.

Sarah Bethany Hart- Sarah is also the granddaughter of Anita Hart. She will be attending Shenandoah University.

Angel Gagnon- Angel is the granddaughter of Ned and Marie Goode. She will be attending Appalachian State University.

Addison Claire Gordon- Addison is also the granddaughter of Ned and Marie Goode. She will be returning to Shenandoah University.

Caroline Elizabeth Neale- Caroline is the granddaughter of Betty and Wayson Christopher. She will be returning to James Madison University.

Landon Nicholas Reihs- Landon is the grandson of Terri Groh. He will be returning to High Point University.

Gavin Raymond Simpson- Gavin is the son of Rick and Kendra Simpson. He will be returning to The College of William and Mary.

Remembering Richard Meredith Pruett, Sr.



Richard Meredith Pruett, Sr. was a godly man who quietly shaped the world around him through kindness, loyalty, and steady service. He passed away on July 29, 2026, at 81. He is survived by his wife Rosie, his children Kim (Ian) and Rich, and four grandchildren: Ethan, Emily, Meredith, and Oliver.

Richard faithfully served Morattico Baptist Church for most of his adult life. Throughout his life, Richard served his church as the Superintendent of Sunday School, Treasurer, Deacon, and Trustee. It was, however, the many untold services he performed that set him apart. Richard was the face of Eagle Eyrie for Morattico Baptist, for decades, he faithfully prepared the elements for communion, he would pick up and deliver children to church if they didn't have a way and he was an eager prayer warrior for all who needed prayer. He never sought recognition for his service, he simply believed in helping when he could. Richard worked at Northern Neck Office Equipment in Kilmarnock for over fifty years, where he became a familiar and trusted face in the community. He gave countless hours to the Kilmarnock Rescue Squad, supported Special Olympics and Friends of The Puller Center.

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Those who knew Richard remember his steady presence, caring nature and his abiding love for Jesus. His life was built on simple, faithful acts — loving his family, serving his community, and showing up when he was needed.

Richard Meredith Pruett, Sr.
September 18, 1944 ~ July 29, 2026



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my deck or patio. Picking crabs has given way to the ease of purchasing a pound of crab meat from Kellum's or Miss Mary's.

Life changes. Priorities change and our interests evolve with age and maturity. Simplicity has become my personal goal. Matthew 6: 19-21 is far more meaningful to me now than it was twenty years ago. It reads, "Don't collect for yourself treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. But collect for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves don't break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Life is a wonderful gift, so let's enter the fall and winter with the mission to simplify our lives and to give our worldly cares to the Lord. Let us focus on the goodness of God and let the desire for more evaporate as the seasons pass.

God bless you and keep you and make His face to shine upon you!

~Richard

WELCOME New Members

Cyndi Moore recently joined our church with her joyful spirit that defies the tragedies she's experienced in recent times. We've been blessed to hear her sing on several Sunday mornings.

She was born in Warrenton, NC, and spent her school years between Virginia and North Carolina. She began her career with VEPCO (now Dominion Energy) and earned an Associate of Applied Science degree from Halifax Community College. After more than 40 years of service, she retired in 2019, but still works part-time as a contractor for Dominion.

Growing up, she attended Methodist churches and strengthened her walk with Christ. She served by singing in the choir, and as steward over the nursery and church building. She also took her first mission trip to Romania through the International Mission Board – a life changing experience and opportunity to witness God's love at work in another country.

Cyndi and her husband, John, live in White Stone. While life has brought them great joy, it has also brought deep sorrow. Their son, Jordan Moore, passed away in 2017 at the age of 18, and their daughter, Crystal Lyles, was tragically killed in an automobile accident on the Norris Bridge in 2025.

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Through these heartbreaking losses, she's learned to lean on God's strength, grace, and unfailing love. She continues to trust Him each day.

One of her favorite passages of Scripture is 1 Corinthians 13:4–7:

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."

~Rhonda Tompkins



PEYTON'S ADVENTURES

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The following week Peyton reached out to his recruiter to find out if he could delay his enlistment because he wanted to be in his twin brother's wedding. His recruiter told him, "No, the Air Force frowns on that...and you are leaving June 2nd for Basic!" Nineteen days later Peyton left Virginia for Texas.

He arrived late at Lackland due to travel delays and the last we heard from him was a scripted call left on voicemail after midnight two days after he left. 72 hours after the voicemail, we had another scripted call from him that I received, but I could not ask questions. We cherished those first letters that arrived to finally hear how he was doing. In addition to the mail, we received two phone calls: one at three weeks and another at five weeks. Those calls were about 15 minutes, and it was so good to hear from him. He always sounded upbeat.



L-R Taylor Zachary (Parker's fiancé), Parker Smith (brother), Peyton, Lisa Smith (mother), Bobby Smith (father) and in front Haley Smith (sister)

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PEYTON'S ADVENTURES

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After 8 weeks of training Peyton graduated Air Force Basic Training on July 22-23, 2026. We attended along with Parker and his fiancé, Taylor, and Peyton's good friend, Reilly. The first sight we had of Peyton was during the Airman's Run. We all agreed that he looked bigger and that the Air Force agreed with him! A few hours later we attended the coin ceremony which is the "official" graduation from Trainee to Airman. It was after this we got to "Tap Out" our Airman. I have to be honest, all the trainees looked alike when you were amongst them and they were standing at attention. We finally found Peyton and he broke before we tapped him out. Hugs and tears followed. The following day was the "Parade" and all the Airmen looked sharp in their "Blues." Parker and Taylor tapped out Peyton this day as they were unable to make it for day one of graduation. Both days we got to spend several hours with him after the ceremonies, but we had to return him to base by evening. Peyton's only request was to have good food and a little rest!

We are so incredibly proud of Peyton's willingness to serve his country and his God. While in Basic he did attend church and started a Bible study. Leaving him was difficult because we do not know when we will see him face to face again.

Peyton has been assigned to Multi-Domain Operations Aviator and will be stationed at Lackland for 3-4 weeks.

Again, thank you all for your prayers and the cards and letters you sent. You are a great extended family to Peyton.

~Lisa Smith
Peyton's mother

FLOWER COMMITTEE REPORT

The Flower Committee held their 3rd quarter meeting on July 15, 2026. Topics of discussion were as follows:

- 2nd and 3rd quarter Flower Committee activities which included placing arrangements in the sanctuary for Historic Garden Week open house on April 22th and placing of flowers in the sanctuary for Interracial Conversation Day at the church on May 26th.
- Flower arrangement remembrances and celebration articles were published in the April and July edition of *The Hill*.
- Memorial Day and Flag Day Sundays had extra patriotic themed flowers for the windows, on the pedestals, front door and inside door wreaths, and the Communion table had a formal center piece of red, white and blue. The patriotic red/white/blue arrangements and wreaths for the Sanctuary continued for Labor Day Sunday (Sept 6th).
- Committee budget for 1Q and 2Q were updated and showed we are on track for staying within the budget and the new expense reporting procedure was also discussed.
- Next committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 14th at 5:30 p.m. Discussions will focus on flower coverage for the many special 4Q events, including Thanksgiving and Christmas.

If you have suggestions or comments regarding any of the activities of the Flower Committee, please share them with one of the members of the committee.

~Anita Hart, Shelley Ritter, Beth Gay,
Ginny Barnes, Page Carlson, Wendy Deihl



Flowers management and donation contacts
for 3Q and 4Q:

Sept: Beth Gay	804-436-5724
Oct: Sheley Ritter	301-717-5157
Nov: Ginny Barnes	804-724-3841
Dec: Anita Hart	804-761-5994



Despite Peyton Smith leaving for the Air Force in June, the young adults have continued meeting for Bible Study Sunday evenings at church. Peyton was thrilled to pass the baton to Nathaniel Barnes, who graciously accepted the role.

Nathaniel has done an amazing job of coming up with lesson topics and helping to execute them. He is wise beyond his years, and the topics he suggests demonstrate that. We have done some fun topics over the past few weeks, including a deep dive on the lyrics of some popular hymns and how they are tied to scripture. Above all, we have a great time, and we enjoy talking about the Lord together!

The doors are always open for any young adults who would like to join. We meet Sundays at 5pm in the fellowship hall, and of course, we still serve dinner. It is a casual and welcoming environment, and we'd love to have more smiling faces Sunday evenings!"

~Jordan Abbott



UPCOMING FALL FESTIVITIES

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

Calendar events:

September 6th	Communion Sunday
September 17th	Business Meeting 7 pm
September 22 nd	First day of Fall
November 1st	Communion Sunday
November 8th	Veterans Day Service
November 19th	Business Meeting 7 pm
November 25th	Thanksgiving Eve Service 6 pm
November 29th	Fifth Sunday

Bold = MBC event

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Jeems Love Peyton Smith