Morattico Baptist Church
MBC2028
Celebrating 250 Years 1778-2028

October 2026

Anniversary Countdown
15 Months

MORATTICO BAPTIST CHURCH

THE HILL

FROM THE PASTOR

Baptism has been a very sought after service over the last couple of years. Many are seeking this public affirmation of faith as they see the importance of following the example of Jesus. Our local Baptist churches have seen tremendous increases in numbers of baptisms and we pastors are overjoyed by the trend.

Baptism is a very important step in the faith journey, especially for the Baptists! Baptism by immersion is a fundamental tenet of our denominational beliefs. I am frequently asked if it is acceptable to be baptized a second time. Many of us were baptized as children and not fully aware of its importance nor understanding its purpose. Second baptism isn't necessary as we believe once baptized, always baptized. Nevertheless, if the Holy Spirit leads you to seek baptism again later in life, we will not argue with the Holy Spirit!

I am also asked if it is necessary to be baptised to be saved and given eternal life. This is unequivocally "no." It is only by faith

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Baptism

Have you ever had the opportunity to attend a Baptismal Service at the river? It is truly a breathtaking and memorable event for everyone! On Sunday, August 2, 2026, Morattico Baptist Church held its annual Baptismal Service on the banks of Dividing Creek. Brenda Gilbert opened her home, yard, and dock for this special occasion. All who attended were mesmerized by the view from her backyard.

It was the middle of summer and you expected the heat, but there was a lovely breeze coming off of the creek. That showed God's presence. It was a peaceful morning and the sun glistened on the water while we watched some boats and jet skis passing by. The chairs were placed under a tent and under the shade of a few trees overlooking the creek. As people parked in Brenda's driveway Curly Harcum passed out the bulletins and welcomed

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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

Rob Akers
Margaret Ambrose
Megan Chance
Mark Clingan
Sherri Comer
Family of Jenny Crandall
Eddie Dawson
Charlie and Lorraine Dixon
Charlotte Evans
Wayne Fallin
Pat Ferreira
Bill and Mary Fletcher
Yana Gorbalenya
Sharon Gordon
Nina Page Gresham
Mike and Crystal Kappel
Cathy Kellum
Robbie McDaniel
Kim and Ian McManamey
Ryan Newton
Rosie and Rich Pruett
Sheila Rollins
Sylvia Saunders
Ada Shepherd
Peyton Smith
Paul Stout
Charlotte Swaffin
William and Patricia Taylor
Jim and Gerry Vick
Robert Wilkins

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

Mae Shelton ~ 804-366-3817



7	Alayna Holcomb
10	Debbie Dodson
12	Martin Smith
19	Amy James
20	L A Fletcher
27	Bryer Walston
28	Ashley Nonnemacker
29	Michelle Gordon



October 10, 1981
John and Pepper Mann

October 15
Paul and Carolyn Foster

October 17
Bob and Peggy Nolting

October 24, 1998
William and Patricia Taylor

Baptism

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everyone. David Hudson was manning a golf cart to carry anyone who needed assistance walking on the grassy hill. Brenda had ice water waiting in a cooler. Pastor Richard was ready on the dock with his microphone and the MBC choir was on hand to sing.

Everyone eagerly awaited the beginning of the service. We were not sure exactly who would be baptized that day and we couldn't wait to find out this surprise! Pastor Richard welcomed everyone in attendance and led us in prayer. Then the choir led the congregation with the singing of the aptly chosen hymn "Shall We Gather at the River" followed by the scripture readings from the Old and New Testaments. Next, the MBC choir provided a special music selection entitled "Fishers of Men". The congregation took part in the responsive reading titled "Savior and Lord". Next was the Offertory Prayer and collection of the offering while music played. Pastor Richard led the Doxology and presented his message about "Baptism".

The pastor called for the candidates for Baptism to come forward. There were four candidates and they were all ladies: Amy Cash, McKenzie Clark, Rachel Barnes, and Ginny Barnes. They proceeded down the dock and into the cleansing waters. Pastor Richard announced each candidate and told more about them and their professions of faith. He also told us that Rachel had requested that her mom be baptized with her and of course, Ginny proudly obliged.

Continued from left

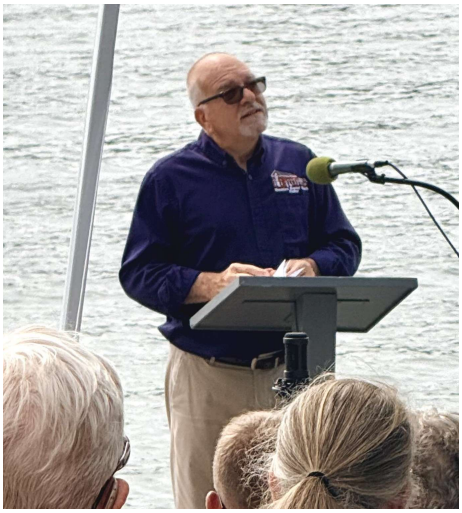
Then we watched as each one of the ladies was immersed and arose with a glowing smile filled with everlasting peace and joy.

It is truly a moving experience to be a part of such a sacred ceremony and to see this in such a beautiful setting! The newly baptized arose from the holy waters and into the welcoming arms of their family and friends. It was such a blessing to witness these baptisms and to feel the hand of God at work. We could all picture how Jesus was baptized in the same manner as these lovely ladies! Remember, there is always another opportunity next year to attend an amazing baptismal service on the river.

~Darlene Nonnemacker



Rachel Barnes, Ginny Barnes, Mackenzie Clark, Amy Cash, Richard Abbott (l-r)



Pastor Richard Abbott

BAPTISM SUNDAY AUGUST 2026



Mackenzie Clark



Amy Cash



Rachel Barnes

BAPTISM SUNDAY AUGUST 2026



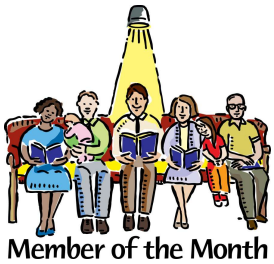
Ginny Barnes



The Barnes Family



Amy Cash, Brenda Gilbert, Debbie Dodson



David and Sandra Hudson

Sandra grew up in Kilmarnock and attended Kilmarnock Baptist Church. David grew up in Weems and attended Campbell Presbyterian Church. They met for the first time in 8th grade and started dating the end of their junior year of high school. So, David and Sandra are high school sweethearts! They got married at Kilmarnock Baptist Church on July 22, 1973. For 50 years they attended Campbell Presbyterian Church where they raised their family and stayed active as Sunday School and Vacation Bible School teachers, as elders and as a deacon.

The Hudsons have been blessed with two wonderful children, Scott and his wife Laura, who live in Tomball, Texas and Amy Stamm and her husband Matthew, who live in Locust Hill in Middlesex County. They have seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

David retired as a lieutenant in 2022 from Lancaster County Sheriff's Office after 30 years of service. Sandra retired from retail furniture and gifts businesses in Kilmarnock after 30 years too! Yet, they still work part time. But they really enjoy traveling and being with family – whether that family is siblings, children, grandchildren or church family.

In August 2024 they began attending Morattico Baptist Church and felt very welcomed right away. Yes, they "love this church!"

~Rhonda Tomkins



Scott Hudson, David Hudson, Sandra Hudson and Amy Hudson Stamm (l-r)

FROM THE PASTOR

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in Christ that we are saved. Baptism doesn't forgive sins or mark us with the seal. Baptism is the symbolic entrance into the tomb with Jesus and the resurrection on the third day. It is the public expression of our submission to Christ and our repentance that symbolizes our rebirth in Christ. It is a solemn and meaningful experience that can often be life-changing for the baptized.

Jesus said, "Go forth and make believers of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit." This is what we Baptists believe to be the right and acceptable means of baptism: acceptance of Jesus as Lord of your life, profession of faith and baptism. Jesus said it, we believe it!

Blessings and Peace!

~Pastor Richard Abbott

IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS!

"Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me.' - Matthew 19:14

Well it's that time of the year again folks. Time to put your hands together and ask our God what HE would have us put in our shoeboxes and how many HE wants us to send. Our goal is to surpass the amount of boxes we filled last year. In 2025 we filled 205!

This year we are filling boxes for 10-14 year old boys and 2-4 year old girls.

Gift-filled Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes are delivered together with the Good News of Jesus Christ as expressions of God's immense love for a child.

Let's show our love by filling those boxes FULL! How about including a picture of your family or your children or grandchildren. We're told that these personal notes and pictures are some of the children's favorite shoebox items!

November 16th is our Packing Party week so get your shoeboxes in no later than Sunday the 15th. Thanks everyone and happy shopping!

~Linda Herring and Janet Smith



THE HUNTON-LUNSFORD HISTORY CENTER

The Hunton-Lunsford History Center in Morattico Baptist Church is pleased to announce the unveiling of the newest display: *Weddings of Morattico Baptist Church*. The display features details of 28 weddings dating back to 1930. There are photos, newspaper clippings and even a hotel receipt from a 1944 honeymoon.

Please take a moment to stop by and check it out.

The History Committee plans to preserve the memories featured in the display by creating a scrapbook that will become a lasting part of history. If you (or someone you know) were married at MBC and would like to be added to the scrapbook, please contact a member of the History Committee.

~Kathy Pittman, Roxy Fisher, Carolyn Foster and Charlotte Swaffin



GOSPEL OF GIVING

A BENEFIT CONCERT



Twin Branch
WELLNESS & RECOVERY FOR WOMEN

Morattico Baptist Church

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2026

7:00 PM

Please join us for a Gospel concert to benefit
TWIN BRANCH WELLNESS & RECOVERY CENTER FOR WOMEN

NO ENTRY FEE
REFRESHMENTS TO FOLLOW.

MORATTICO BAPTIST CHURCH
924 Morattico Church Road
Kilmarnock, VA

CASH & CHECK
DONATIONS ACCEPTED



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

Calendar events:

October 11th	**Pastor Appreciation Sunday**
October 12th	Columbus Day
October 16th	**Benefit Concert (see page 7)**
November 1st	**Communion Sunday**
November 8th	**Veterans Day Service**
November 16th	**Operation Christmas Child Packing Party**
November 19th	**Business Meeting 7 pm**
November 25th	**Thanksgiving Eve Service 6 pm**
November 26th	Thanksgiving
November 29th	**Fifth Sunday**

Bold = MBC event

Morattico Baptist Church

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