



What is the Mid-State Baptist Association?

WE CAN ACCOMPLISH MORE BY WORKING TOGETHER THAN WE CAN ALONE

It all began ...

- ▶ Baptist churches began to form themselves into local associations (or groups of churches) in Philadelphia in the year 1707.
- ▶ The Mid-State Baptist Association was incorporated in 1956. For over 64 years we have worked together to do ministry.

A Collection of Unique Churches

- ▶ The members of the churches in our local association come from a variety of cultures and ethnic backgrounds from all over the world.
- ▶ Our churches are located in Bibb, Jones, Monroe and Wilkinson counties.
- ▶ Our churches range in size from 10 to 2000+

The Purpose of Our Churches

- ▶ To know Christ and to make him known
- ▶ To connect to God and others
- ▶ To help followers of Jesus grow in worship, fellowship, discipleship, and serving others
- ▶ To share the good news with the world that anyone can have a relationship with God

When Do Churches Meet?

- ▶ All churches meet on Sunday morning at various times for a worship service but there are also meetings and acts of kindness that take place 7 days a week.
- ▶ Anyone is welcome to attend a church service in person or watch online. Most of our churches provide a way to watch a service on a website or Facebook, but you will get the most out of it by meeting in person at a local meeting.

Small Groups At Every Church

- ▶ They go by various names – Sunday school classes, small groups, home groups, life groups, community groups, ...
- ▶ They are usually a group of 2 to 30 people who meet to read the Bible, talk about what they are learning, pray and serve others.

Where Are These Christian Words in the Bible

- ▶ **Saved** – Acts 16:31 “Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved.”
- ▶ **Born again** – John 3:3 “no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.”
- ▶ **Forgiven** – I John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us”
- ▶ **Receive Christ** – John 1:12 “Yet to all who received him”
- ▶ **Believe** – John 3:16 “whoever believes in him shall not perish”
- ▶ **Eternal life** – Rom 6:23 “the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus”

What Does The Association Do?

- ▶ The staff and volunteers do many things every day.
- ▶ A food pantry called Storehouse offers food, prayer and encouragement
- ▶ Builders for Christ – builds churches and Christian camps
- ▶ Scholarship help for seminary students

What Does The Association Do?

- ▶ Scholarship help for Mercer interns
- ▶ We help lead B.C.M. at Wesleyan, provide funds
- ▶ Financial support for W.M.U. meetings
- ▶ Free books for pastors and help pastors attend conferences
- ▶ Free lunches and training for pastors at monthly roundtables – several each month

What Does The Association Do?

- ▶ Pulpit supply at no cost to churches
- ▶ Training for Pastor Search Teams
- ▶ Training for Sunday School/Small Groups
- ▶ Training for deacon ministry
- ▶ Training for evangelism or discipleship
- ▶ Training for missions, opportunities to serve

What Does The Association Do?

- ▶ Coaching for new pastors or staff
- ▶ Church mediation and conflict resolution
- ▶ Training for long-range planning teams
- ▶ A list of pulpit supply candidates
- ▶ A list of interim pastor candidates

What Does The Association Do?

- ▶ We have a party trailer for churches to use
- ▶ We help churches create a web site
- ▶ A sewing ministry creates clothes
- ▶ A used literature ministry
- ▶ Training for financial secretary or treasurer

What Does The Association Do?

- ▶ We help strengthen existing churches
- ▶ We help plant new churches
- ▶ We help replant churches
- ▶ We help churches find new ways to connect to the city and the community