



# 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.

# What Do These Christian Words Mean

- ▶ **Deacon** – “servant” - a church volunteer who is elected to help serve others and meet physical or spiritual needs. In the Bible, the original deacons were chosen to feed widows.

# What Do These Christian Words Mean

- ▶ **Elder** – a person chosen in the church because of their wisdom and spiritual maturity. There are ordained elders (clergy, pastors, ministers) and lay elders (volunteers). A group of elders meet together on a regular basis and help guide a local church in their administration, education, worship and serving ministries for the community.



# What Do These Christian Words Mean

- ▶ **Baptism** – in the Baptist church, baptism (immersion in a pool of water in a church, a swimming pool, a lake or the ocean) is an act of obedience to show in a public way that you are a follower of Jesus. It is an outward symbol to tell others about an inner change that took place when a person believed in the work of Christ on the cross for their sins.

# What Do These Christian Words Mean

- ▶ **The Lord's Supper or Communion** – before Jesus was arrested and then crucified, he had a last meal with his disciples. They ate bread and drank wine and Jesus used the bread and wine to explain what was about to happen to him as he died for the sins of the world.
- ▶ **I Cor 11:23-25** *“The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, ‘This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me... This cup is the new covenant in my blood, do this whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.’”*
- ▶ For 2,000 years Christians have eaten the Lord's Supper to honor Christ.

# What Do These Christian Words Mean

- ▶ **God** – the Bible says that the universe, the earth, the people and animals were all created and had a beginning in a point in time, but God has always existed. God is holy, all-powerful, all-knowing, always present, loving. There is one God, He is a Spirit and he demonstrates himself in three ways to us: God the Father, God the Son and the Holy Spirit.
- ▶ **Colos 1:16** *“For by him all things were created; things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible ... all things were created by him and for him ... and in him all things hold together.”*

# 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