

September 10, 2012

Dear Friends & Members of MLIBC;

In 1962, a small group of believers (of the Baptist persuasion) in Oakland, MD, called Brother Ed Wilt (a home church planter) to come and start the First Baptist Church of Oakland. Now here we are, 50 years later and the First Baptist Church (now the Mountain Lake Independent Baptist Church) is still going strong.

In the past fifty years, the church has had 5 pastors, supported hundreds of missionaries given over a million dollars to missions, run Sunday School buses for nearly 4 decades, ran an academy, hosts a Bible Institute, for the last 13 years maintained our 88.7 fm (24 hour) radio ministry, distributed millions of Gospel tracts, taken church members on dozens of mission trips around the world, and for the last 10 years had an effective presence on the world-wide web.

This is not to say that the church has not been through some difficult times. There have been some seasons in the "dark valleys" along with times on the glorious "mountain tops." MLIBC like so many other churches its' age, has had it's share of "ups" and "downs," nevertheless, **God has been faithful and has blessed this body of believers in some wonderful ways.**

On Sunday, September 23, we are celebrating this 50 year milestone with a very special day. Dr. Shelton Smith along with Dr. Byron Foxx will be with us for this special event. Dr. Don C. Williams is joining us and presenting a history of MLIBC in the evening.

Other special events are planned, including a chicken BBQ dinner here on the church grounds.

Please plan on being with us for this very special day and invite anyone you know who has been touched by any of our church's many ministries to join us for this exciting day.

Please pray with us that...

1. **God will be glorified in all our activities on this special day.** *1 Corinthians 10:31*
2. **That the eternal Gospel of Jesus Christ will be proclaimed with Holy Ghost power and that we will see souls saved on this special day.** Dr. Shelton

Smith is an effective preacher of the Gospel and we are looking to the Lord to fill him with the Holy Spirit and that souls will be saved.

3. **That church members will be renewed in their love and dedication to the Lord Jesus Christ.** *Revelation 2:4*
4. **That wayward Christians will be brought back into fellowship with the Lord and that the joy of their salvation will be restored.** *Psalms 51:12*
5. **That we could see some new believers added to the church through water baptism.** *Acts 2:41*
6. **That our church members will reestablish our commitment to the Lord Jesus, to the preservation of God's Word and to the Fundamentals of the faith delivered to us in the Word of God, and to the evangelization of the world!** *Jude 1:3; Mark 16:15*
7. **That our testimony within our community will be established as a kind, compassionate, holy, and zealous body of believers.**

I cannot over emphasize how important and special this day is in the life of our church and in my life personally. It has been the joy of my life to pastor this wonderful body of believers.

Again, please make every effort you possibly can to spend this exciting day with us. Bring your family and friends.

**There is no doubt in my mind that the greatest days of MLIBC are still ahead.** Join us in prayer and participation as we anticipate God doing some "great and mighty things!"

I am looking forward to seeing you this Sunday in Sunday school. Be sure to bring your Bible and a friend.

Sincerely, your friend,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dennis Leatherman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'D'.

Dennis Leatherman, Pastor