

Strawberry Baptist Association

Spirit



Rev. David Timma- Moderator

Vernon DeLong – Interim Secretary

Vol 56 No. 8 Aug 2025

Strawberry Baptist Association

Our Constitution states our **Purpose**, our **Values** and our **Vision** for Strawberry Association, and I realized, **Nothing's Changed!**

Our Purpose - to Assist the Churches in touching every person with the gospel of Jesus Christ; by **Stimulating** greater fellowship, spiritual growth and unity among the churches; **Strengthening** their Ministries of stewardship, evangelism, **Missions** and discipleship; and **Providing** opportunities to engage cooperatively in **Missions** and **Ministries** which they cannot adequately support individually. The Church has only **1 Purpose** – The Great Commission, likewise the Association has only **1 Purpose**, to help the Church fulfill its Purpose – The Great Commission, Reaching every person with the Gospel. **Nothing's Changed!**

Our Values - The Bible is God's Holy Word inspired by the Holy Spirit. It is our guide, final authority, source of unity, and motivation for service to the honor and glory of God. **Salvation** is the gift of God's grace through Faith. It is accomplished once and for all by the substitutionary death of Jesus Christ on the Cross and Resurrection from the dead. We are commanded by God in the **Great Commission** to take the Gospel message to our neighborhoods, cities, nation and the world. The visible result of our **Obedience** to the Great Commission is the growth of our local autonomous Baptist churches distinguished by Believers' Baptism by immersion and a commitment to the Word of God. **Kingdom Work** is greater than any single Church; therefore we recognize the need to **Cooperate and Fellowship** with like-minded Baptist churches in pursuit of a unified witness to our local communities. The Bible is the Word of God, Jesus is the Son of God, **Salvation** is by the Grace of God, the **One and Only Purpose of the Church** is to fulfill the **Great Commission**, the immediate **Results** would be **Baptisms, New Members and Growth** in All our Churches, but remember, **Kingdom Work** is Greater than any one Church. (There are more Lost people in Bedford County than we can put in All our Churches.) **Nothing's Changed!**

Our Vision - Due to our common faith in Jesus Christ and His Body, the Church, we **Commit** ourselves to **Connecting** with one another, for **Coordinating** the **Missions** and **Ministries** of our member churches, and **Communicating** opportunities to partner together to fulfill the Great Commission and Great Commandment. Notice the **3 C's** – **Connecting, Coordinating and Communicating** with other Churches. Notice **Missions** appears 3 times and Church **Ministries** appears twice? **Evangelism** is the Lifeblood of the Church, and our Association. Whether we are Sharing the Gospel, Telling the Good News, from our Pulpits, or around the world, that is what we are about. **Nothing's Changed!**

Mission's and **Ministries** flow out of **Evangelism** – Reach, Teach, Touch, Mend and Send Disciples back into the world. **Ministry** is helping meet the needs of those in our Church and Community around us. These people may, or may not, come to your Church, but you have Touched their lives and hearts with God's Love and the Gospel. **Mission's** is "when you don't get your nickel back." These people probably will never attend your Church, especially if you're doing **Mission** work in another city, state, or country, but you have Touched their lives and hearts with God's Love and the Gospel. **You will meet again in Heaven!**

Because my Parkinson's Disease has progressed, I am having more trouble walking and completing tasks, so I am **Resigning** as **Interim Secretary of Strawberry Association**. I cannot do the job as well as it needs to be done. I will continue to serve as Vice-Moderator to help in any way I can. The doctors have increased my medicine, so I am still able to Preach, I just hold onto the pulpit more instead of moving around as much.

But **Nothing's Changed!** Strawberry Baptist Association still has the same **Purpose**, the same **Values**, and the same **Vision** - **Joining Together to Carry Out the Great Commission here in Bedford County.**

Vernon

2nd Qtr Financial Report

Financial Report - Jan - Dec 2025											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	YTD	Expenses	Budget	Budget	%
Beginning Checkbook Balance	\$62,364.30	\$62,414.68	\$62,719.96	\$51,462.86	\$50,251.68	\$41,401.97		Income			
General Fund											
Undesignated Receipts	\$770.73	\$1,066.92	\$1,650.30	\$1,108.73	\$1,116.26	\$913.54		\$6,626.48			
Designated Funds	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00			
Total Receipts	\$770.73	\$1,066.92	\$1,650.30	\$1,108.73	\$1,116.26	\$913.54		\$6,626.48			
Balance (Ckbook Bal + Receipts)	\$63,135.03	\$63,481.60	\$64,370.26	\$52,571.59	\$51,367.94	\$42,315.51					
Total Expenses	-\$720.35	-\$761.64	-\$12,907.40	-\$2,319.91	-\$9,965.97	-\$893.69		-\$27,568.96			
Ending Checkbook Balance	\$62,414.68	\$62,719.96	\$51,462.86	\$50,251.68	\$41,401.97	\$41,421.82		(\$20,942.48)			
CD's											
BGAV Foundation	\$42,146.82	\$42,146.82	\$42,146.82	\$42,146.82	\$42,146.82	\$42,146.82					
Total - All Accounts	\$41,557.08	\$41,557.08	\$41,557.08	\$41,557.08	\$41,557.08	\$41,557.08					
	\$146,118.58	\$146,423.86	\$135,166.76	\$133,955.58	\$125,105.87	\$125,125.72					
Ministries											
CenterFest	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	100.00	0%	
Missions Grants	0.00	0.00	12,000.00	0.00	9,000.00	0.00		21,000.00	25,000.00	84%	
Local Church Ministry & Outreach	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	5,000.00	0%	
Disaster Relief	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	1,500.00	0%	
Subtotal	0.00	0.00	12,000.00	0.00	9,000.00	0.00		21,000.00	\$31,600.00	66%	
Personnel											
Clerk's Expense Reimbursement	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	N/A	
Secretary's Salary	215.11	215.11	163.10	263.13	215.11	119.06		1,190.62	5,000.00	24%	
Secretary's Social Security	56.83	64.78	64.78	56.82	72.74	64.78		380.73	0.00	N/A	
Treasurer's Mileage Reimbursement	0.00	0.00	63.70	0.00	0.00	63.70		127.40	250.00	51%	
Subtotal	271.94	279.89	291.58	319.95	287.85	247.54		1,698.75	\$5,250.00	32%	
Associational Office											
Office Supplies	22.60	55.83	189.90	71.04	202.13	220.16		761.66	1,500.00	51%	
Website	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	1,200.00	0%	
Computer Maintenance	0.00	0.00	0.00	250.00	0.00	0.00		250.00	250.00	100%	
SBA Office Rent	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00		1,800.00	3,600.00	50%	
SBA Insurance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	1,200.00	0%	
SBA Renters Insurance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	N/A	
Telephone & Internet	125.81	125.92	125.92	125.92	125.99	125.99		755.55	1,600.00	47%	
Subtotal	448.41	481.75	615.82	746.96	628.12	646.15		3,567.21	\$9,350.00	38%	
Other											
Associational Annuals	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	N/A	
Annual Meeting	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,253.00	0.00	0.00		1,253.00	1,500.00	84%	
Eagle Eyrie	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	N/A	
Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	0.00		50.00	200.00	25%	
Subtotal	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,253.00	50.00	0.00		1,303.00	\$1,700.00	77%	
Total Disbursements	\$720.35	\$761.64	\$12,907.40	\$2,319.91	\$9,965.97	\$893.69		\$27,568.96	\$47,900.00	58%	

Strawberry Baptist Association

“Joining Together to carry out the Great Commission.”

Pastor’s Wives’ Brunch

Quaker Baptist Church is hosting a **Pastor Wives’ Brunch**, on Saturday, September 13th, at 11:00 am. The Church Address is 4665 Chestnut Fork Rd., Bedford. If you are interested in joining us, contact Lynne Stebbins at 732-766-5558. If any other ladies would like to help serve or prepare a dish, please contact Lynne.

Bedford - As Summer winds down and school starts in a couple of weeks, we are planning a **Back-to-School** event, but not until Sept 7th. **Baptism Sunday** is Aug 17th during morning worship. We are excited to partner with LifeWise Academy to offer **Gospel Education** to children at Bedford Middle School. This is an off-site program which will take place during the school day. For more information, check out the website at LIFEWISE.org. We are planning a **Ladies’ Night Out** in October, but no details are available currently.

Flint Hill – We are having our Annual **Community Picnic** Sat, Aug 23rd from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. We will have **Music** at 4:00 and a **Meal** at 5:00 in the Flint Hill Community Center.

Timber Ridge - We had a great time during our **“Magnified” VBS**. We planted many seeds in the hearts of the children. They played fun games, made neat crafts, and ate yummy snacks which included crickets and bumble bee cake pops. We had a giant water slide on Family Night in addition to sweet treats and dinner. **Revival Services** are Aug 24-27, 7:00 p.m. nightly, with Pastor Rusty Craig. A nursery is provided for children up to 3 yrs. old. We are excited to see what the Lord is going to do! Several of our Youth returned from **Word of Life Camp** in Florida. One of our youth came to know the Lord during the week (**PTL!**). Our **Young Family Class** recently began a video series focusing on I Corinthians. Our **Ladies Wednesday Bible Group** will begin a new study in Joshua, beginning Wed, Sept 3rd. All ladies are welcome to join us. **WMU** collected personal care items for Foster Care and the Homeless.

Missions Opportunity

Mission Link International has scheduled a **Mission Trip to Uganda** for **Feb. 6-18, 2026**. This Mission Trip will bring great glory to the Lord Jesus, as countless souls will be added to the family of God. **MLI** is seeking volunteers to fill **25 spots** on this trip. The Cost is **\$3,400 + \$50** Visa Application fee. Those who sign up and send in their \$100 Non-Refundable Deposit by Sept 1, will receive a \$200 Scholarship, to be deducted from the total costs. I look forward to serving with new team members this year.

We will share the gospel at Medical Clinics, Youth Activities, Bible Conferences, Widows ministry, etc., all to Shine the glorious light of the Gospel of Christ. If you or anyone in your family is interested in joining our **Mission Link Team** in February, **please reply** to this email at todd@missionlink.org, so we can keep everyone updated with MLI Trip details moving forward. If you have **“No Doubts”** and are **“Ready to GO”**, feel free to respond with, **“Sign Me Up.”**

Requirements: U.S. Passports cannot Expire prior to Aug. 16, 2026. Must be **Yellow Fever** vaccinated and **Up-to-date** on all required shots. Our **Trip Application** must be completed for those new to Mission Link and minors under 18 years old.

Our **First Mission Team Meeting** will be held at our MLI office in Bedford on Tuesday, Oct. 14, 2025, at 6:30 PM (dinner provided). A Trip Booklet revealing our flight itinerary, hotel, along with helpful insights and spiritual guidance will be provided. I will also be instructing each person how to apply **“online”** for our Ugandan E-Visas. The **Final Mission Team Meeting** will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2026, at 6:00 PM. We will go over last-minute details, or any changes, and collect your personal bags (**50 lb allowance**) to help us pack all our bags in preparation for them being checked at the airport.

A **\$1,550 Deposit** must be received by Oct. 15, 2025. The remaining **Trip Balance** of **\$1,550** must be paid to the MLI office by January 13, 2026. If the Lord is calling you to join us in sharing the glorious gospel of Jesus, trust in Him to help meet the costs.

Strawberry Baptist Association
P.O. Box 91
Bedford, VA 24523

August

5 Pastor's Conference