

Strawberry Baptist Association



Spirit

Rev. David Timma- *Moderator*

Kat Strickler - *Secretary*

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Kingdom Focused

(1 Corinthians 3:5-9)

Brandon Palmer – *Vice Moderator*

The story of Saul's conversion to Paul is a fascinating one. Saul is on the road to Damascus "still breathing out threats and murder" towards believers when he has a radical encounter with Christ, blinded, and led to Damascus (vs 1-9). Then, the Lord tells Ananias to go to Straight Street and to pray over Saul (vs 10-19a). Saul, after some days with the disciples, immediately started proclaiming Jesus in the synagogues and the Jews were confounded (vs 19b-25). Saul fled from Damascus to escape a plot by the Jews to kill him, and attempted to join the disciples in Jerusalem, but they did not believe he was a disciple (vs 26). But Barnabas took Saul and brought him before the apostles, vouching for him and his conversion, and that led to Saul preaching boldly in the name of the Lord (vs 27-30). And then, we read these amazing lines in verse 31: "So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And was walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied."

"The church" in Judea, Galilee, and Samaria was being multiplied. There wasn't one big megachurch for all of those areas, but it was local gatherings of believers who all collectively represented the church in Judea, Galilee, and Samaria. There are multiple local churches in our area, some part of the SBA, some not, but we all collectively represent the church in Bedford. We are all called by the same Lord for the same mission: making disciples of all nations, throughout Bedford, Virginia, the United States, and to all the ends of the earth. May we all walk in the fear of the Lord, in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, and be reminded of two important truths from 1 Corinthians 3:5-9.

First, God gives all the growth (vs 5-7). Paul doesn't say "who" is Paul and Apollos but "what" is Paul and Apollos. We must always remember our "what", our function is to be servants (literally "table waiters") (vs 5), used by our Lord, to help others come to, and grow in, their faith in who? Jesus Christ, because it is all about Him, and His glory. We are all given an assignment, either planting or watering, but God is the One who gives the growth (vs 6). The work of the both the planter and waterer is needed, there is unity there, because it's only by the grace of God, all for the glory of God. We are nothing in comparison to God, merely instruments in the hands of the Redeemer, jars of clay showing His surpassing power (2 Cor. 4:7).

Second, God receives all the glory (vs 8-9). Both he who plants and he who waters are one (vs 8a), because we are all one body, with one Spirit, having one hope (Eph. 4:4-6). We will receive our wages according to our labor (vs 8b), because every one of us has a role to play in God's redemption of all of creation. May we labor well in our role and encourage others in theirs. We are Christ's field, where He is continually cultivating the Gospel in our lives and churches. We are Christ's building, individual bricks being collectively built into the house of the living God (Eph. 2:20-22), both locally and globally. May we be perfectly one just as the Father and Son are perfectly one (John 17:20-23). May we not view each other's church or fellow Christians as competition, but as fellow ambassadors of Christ, from other embassies of Heaven, striving to advance the Kingdom of God throughout Bedford and beyond.

LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING

100% of your gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® enable gospel transformation among the unreached.

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Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes Collected

Bedford Baptist	252
Flint Hill	40
Pecks	39
Sedalia	780
Suck Spring	73
Thaxton	99
Timber Ridge	100
Trinity	43

Total Shoeboxes 1,426



December 11 • 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Christmas Banquet • Lynchburg

Join pastors, staff, and spouses of Central-West & Southside Region churches for the Christmas Banquet at The Virginian.

Reminder

ACPs are being mailed soon. Please watch for them. You can complete and submit them by March 31st. You can fill them out by hand and return mail them, by hand and bring them to our office or submit them online.



Church News

Trinity Baptist - Dec. 14, 6:30 pm Church at the clock tower & carol sing. Dec. 24, 6:30 pm Christmas Eve Communion Service

Thaxton Baptist – On Dec. 1, 10:30 am, we will have the Hanging of the Greens. There will be a Youth Watch Party on Dec. 7, 5:00 pm. They will begin The Chosen again. Dec. 15, 10:30 am, will be our Christmas pageant & potluck lunch. We will go caroling to shut-ins and nursing homes on Dec. 18, 6:30 pm. On Dec. 24, 5:00 pm, we will have our Christmas Eve candlelight service.

Diamond Hill had a successful Fall Festival. We had Bedford County Sheriff's Office attend and set up children and parents with packets for their children if they ever become missing or exploited. We also had the Moneta Fire Dept and Rescue Squad there with their trucks and Town of Vinton Police serving up hot dogs. The church members made apple butter through the day. Coming up Events: December 14th at 6:00, join us for a Live Concert with the Mark Dubbeld Family and refreshments to follow. There will be a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7:00 pm.

Timber Ridge Our Ladies Bible Study group spent an evening putting together Christmas baskets for our sweet senior saints. On Friday, December 5th at 6:30 p.m., our ladies will enjoy a "Christmas PJ Party Night." On December 7th, our children will present their play, "Angels in the Sky, Baby in the Hay" during Morning Worship at 11:00 a.m.

On December 14th, our choir will present their cantata entitled, "A Christmas Hallelujah."

On December 21, during our 11:00 a.m. Worship Service we will be joined by Gospel Worship leader and soloist, Shannon Smith. Our AWANA ministry has been on the move lately. Our most recent theme night, "Wise Disguise Night," found our Clubbers dressed like senior citizens. Many donned wigs, glasses, walkers and canes. Our youth room was recently blessed with a new air hockey table and laser tag guns. Our Youth Pastor, Nathan, continues Bible studies which focus on keeping Jesus first in your life.

Under the leadership of our WMU Ministry, we are currently participating in the Angel Tree Ministry for the mission, "Rwandan Hugs". Our WMU also participated in the "Shop With a Cop" event, and donated to the Bedford Christmas Station. We donated to the Agape Ministry to help with the Angel Tree Ministry serving families in the Bedford area for Christmas. Our Wednesday Night Ladies Bible Study group will begin a new study in January 2026 entitled, "Be Loyal, Following the King of Kings" which will take us verse by verse through the book of Matthew. Study times: Wednesday evenings, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the church fellowship hall.

Bedford Baptist We continue to have a great turnout each week as we work with the Liberty High School FCA to provide the Breakfast & Bibles outreach on Thursday mornings at 7:00 am. The Children's Christmas Program will be held in the Sanctuary on Sunday, December 7th and the Adult Sanctuary Choir will perform their Christmas Cantata on December 14th. We also invite anyone who does not have other commitments to join us for our Christmas Eve Service on December 24th at 7:00 pm in the Church Sanctuary. Our Sanctuary organ has been refurbished, and we are looking forward to hearing some joyful noise soon.

Pecks We put together 200 goodie bags to bless all of the teachers at Staunton River Middle and High School. We had a great time at our Veteran's Day program on November 8. We had 40+ people from both our church and the community, representing almost all of the branches of the military.

On Sunday December 7, starting at 5:00pm, we will be having our annual Thanksgiving/Christmas dinner. Kelly Davis, a missions mobilizer for the IMB, will preach that Sunday morning during service, and speak that Sunday evening, sharing about what the Lord is doing through missions globally through the IMB and thanks to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering. On Sunday, December 14, starting at 6:00pm, we will be having our annual Christmas Cantata program. The theme is "Let There Be Peace". We will be having a Candlelight Christmas Eve service on Wednesday, December 24, starting at 7:00pm.

Strawberry Baptist Association
P.O. Box 91
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December

- 1-7 Lottie Moon Week of Prayer for International Missions
- 4 SBCV Valley Region Christmas Banquet - Roanoke
- 11 SBCV Central-West & Southside Region Christmas Banquet - Lynchburg
- 25 Christmas Day

January

- 1 New Year's Day
- 19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day