

# Strawberry Baptist Association

## *Spirit*



Rev. David Timma - Moderator

Vernon DeLong – Secretary

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## Reflections

Memorial Day is a day for remembering the sacrifice of those who died in the service of our nation. Our nation would not be the place it is without the sacrifices of those who have lost their lives in its defense. But often I feel we forget where the nobility of sacrifice comes from. We value the sacrifice of one's life primarily because of the Biblical teaching of Christ that "No one has greater love than this: to lay down his life for his friends (John 15:13)." It is distinctly Christian for several reasons. And even the greatest of sacrifices made by people pale in comparison to the sacrifice of God in the death of Christ.

Firstly, a sacrifice like this is seen as 'loving'. That means you care about someone, or some idea more than you care about yourself. In a world consumed with selfishness that is desperately needed. But more than the pursuit of our own comfort at the cost of others, it is the awareness that there are people and ideas more important than me. God's demonstration of love is seen in that "God so loved the world that He gave his only Son... (John 3:16)". We are called to die to self-daily to genuinely love God and those around us.

Secondly the death of Christ was voluntarily and knowingly done. We do sacrifice in life, but the truth is, most of us sacrifice only if there is a gainful reason for ourselves or those we love. In the movie "Saving Private Ryan" the man saved, at the end is in tears wondering if he lived a life worth the cost. We want to know if someone is worthy of it, before we sacrifice and often wonder about other's sacrifices about us. Yet Romans tells us that Christ's great love is such that "while we were still helpless, at the right time, Christ died for the ungodly (Romans 5:6)"! He knew us and loved us before we knew ourselves. And He loves us often despite ourselves. Genuine love of a Godly type anticipates the transforming work of God on the soul – He redeems us for what we will become, not because we are great already. So, take heart from the love of God and continue to strive for the transformation that sanctification works in us!

Finally, there is the assumption in most of life, and explicitly in Scripture, that there really is more to 'life' than this world and our short years here. We will all die at some point and so the great question isn't if – but when and how, and what next! And that is where John 3:16 finishes "... that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16)." We believe that death is not the end. It is coming for each of us and is non-negotiable. So, the real question is not if, but when, how, and to where. I pray you know Christ as your Savior so that you may die well and have all eternity to know it is accomplished by the Grace of God through faith in Christ! He sacrificed for our salvation, what will we sacrifice to live as our Lord?

*David*

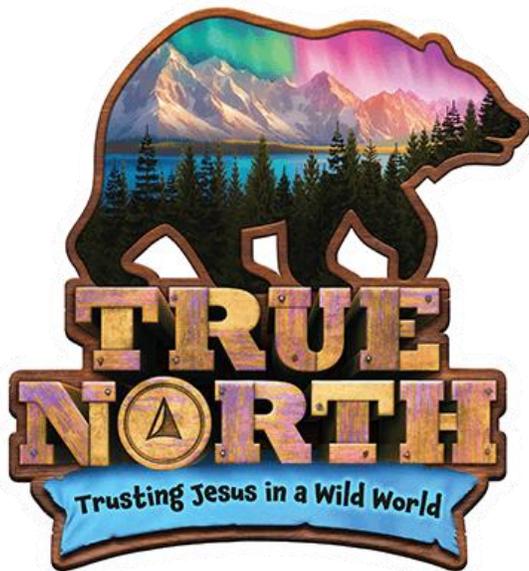
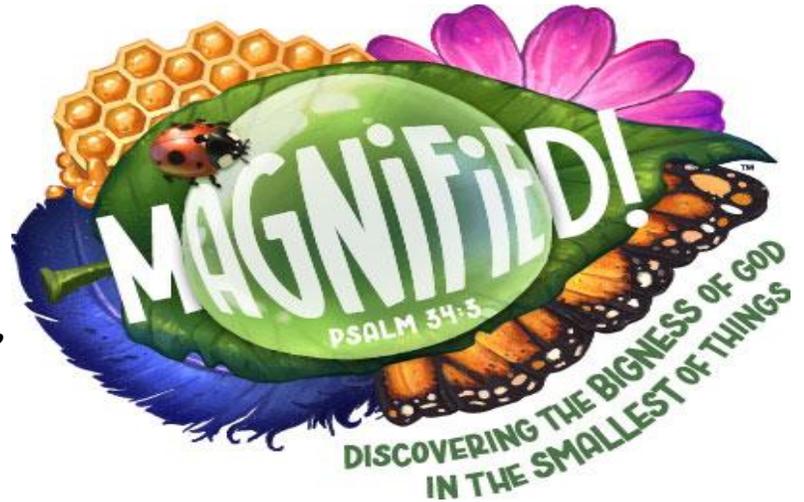
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### Lifeway VBS 2025 “Magnified”

*“Oh, Magnify the Lord with me,  
and let us Exalt His Name together.”  
Psalm 34:3*



### Group VBS 2025 “True North”

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, Lean  
not on your own understanding;  
In all your ways acknowledge Him,  
and He shall direct your paths.”  
Proverbs 3:5-6*

### Answers in Genesis VBS 2025 “Who is Jesus?”

*Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.  
1 Cor 10:31b*



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**  
*The Church’s Greatest Evangelism Opportunity!*  
*A Time to have Fun, Learn about Jesus &  
Eat Cookies & Kool-Aid.*

# Strawberry News

*“Joining Together to carry out the Great Commission.”*

## Bedford

- \***Vacation Bible School “Magnified”** will begin on Monday, June 9<sup>th</sup> through June 13<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 – 8:30 pm. Ages 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade.
- \*Our **Mission Team** will be traveling to Charlotte, NC, the week of June 15<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> for a time of sharing the gospel, manual labor, fellowship and fun.
- \*On Sunday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, we will move our **Worship Service** to Eagle Eyre. We will depart from the Church after Sunday School at 10:45, ride the Church bus to the mountain and Worship, enjoy lunch and then pool time.

## Diamond Hill

- \***Vacation Bible School** - June 16<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> – Theme is *“Magnified”* by Lifeway.

## Suck Spring

- \*Suck Spring Baptist is having **VBS** June 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> . Theme is Lifeway’s *“Magnified!”* VBS is for ages 3 to Adult.
- \*Our Annual **Mission Trip** to Nicaragua is October 4<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>.
- \*We finished this **Awana** year on May 18<sup>th</sup> with an average attendance of 24 children. **Awana’s** will resume on Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>.

## Timber Ridge

- \*We have recently called **Nathan Redford** of Knoxville, TN, to be our **Youth and Outreach Minister**. Nathan is a student at Liberty, majoring in Theology and Apologetics. He leads the Evangelism Club, where he takes fellow students out into the community to evangelize and train them to share the Word. He has a heart for young people and adults alike. Welcome aboard, Nathan! We are excited to have you with us.
- \*Our ladies are currently enjoying the study, *“Rest and Release,”* by Courtney Joseph. This study guides ladies into a study of God's Word, using the **SOAK** method: **S**cripture, **O**bservation, **A**pplication, and **K**neeling in Prayer. We can rest in God, while releasing and giving our burdens to Him.
- \*Pastor Phil is continuing his series, *“The Genesis Project,”* during our Worship time. Most recently, we looked at Noah’s sons and the importance of making sure our family roots grow deep in Christ.
- \*In a few weeks, we will start viewing videos from the **“March Like a Champion Evangelism Conference”** during our Wednesday night Bible time. All are welcome. Our service starts at 6:30 pm in the church fellowship hall.
- \*We will be having **Vacation Bible School July 21<sup>st</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>**. Our theme is *“Magnified”* from Lifeway. VBS is for Ages: 3½ (*fully potty trained*) thru 5<sup>th</sup> Grade.
- \*Our **WMU** is currently collecting personal care items for Foster Care and the Homeless.
- \***Missionary Nancy Strachan**, recently shared her heart for Rwanda in East Africa during our Ladies Bible Study. We were touched by her love for the country, its people and her heart's desire that their physical, emotional, and most importantly their spiritual needs are met. Our ladies were given the opportunity to share in this mission as well.

Strawberry Baptist Association  
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## June

- 4 Pastor's Conference - @ *Trinity*
- 8-11 Southern Baptist Convention in *Dallas, TX*
- 15 Father's Day