

Strawberry Baptist Association

Spirit



David Timma- Moderator

Vernon DeLong –Secretary

Vol 56 No. 3 Mar 2025

Week of Prayer for North American Missions

Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

March 2-9, 2025

National Offering Goal - \$78 Million

Theme: Step into the Story



The **Annie Armstrong Easter Offering** was started in 1895 by Woman's Missionary Union to benefit the work of the Home Mission Board, now **North American Mission Board**. **100%** of gifts given to **AAEO** support more than **3,000 missionaries** serving across the United States and Canada. Gifts are used to train and resource missionaries in church planting and compassion ministries, and create evangelism resources. New churches are being planted, hurts are being healed and lives are being transformed by the gospel because you give. More than \$2 billion has been donated by Southern Baptist churches and individuals to support thousands of missionaries in church planting and compassion ministries. Because of your sacrificial giving, millions of lives have been transformed by the power of the gospel.



Annie Walker Armstrong was born in Baltimore, MD, to John and Mary Armstrong. She came from a long line of prominent Baptists including her great-great-grandfather Henry Sater, who helped establish the first Baptist church in Maryland. At the age of 20, Annie was saved under the preaching of Dr. Richard Fuller at Seventh Baptist Church. She was one of the 100 Seventh Baptist Church members who established Eutaw Place Church. The church's pastor was Richard Fuller, 3rd president of the Southern Baptist Convention, who was heavily involved in missionary activities.

Annie worked with multiple Baltimore missionary organizations ministering to orphans, African Americans, Native Americans, Chinese Americans immigrants, and indigent women and families. In 1888, Armstrong led the creation of the Woman's Missionary Union, helping draft the constitution and serving as its first correspondent secretary, a position that functioned as executive director. In her role as head of the **WMU**, Annie facilitated communication between denominational leaders, local congregations and missionaries on the field. She was an extensive letter writer, writing by hand and later by typewriter. In one year alone she wrote 18,000 letters. During her tenure as head of the WMU, Armstrong refused a salary and traveled extensively at her own expense on behalf of the WMU. Annie was a tireless advocate for missionaries rallying the churches to support mission work through prayer and sacrificial giving. She personally visited missionaries serving throughout the US and carried their stories back to the churches and state conventions through her eyewitness accounts and by circulating their letters. It was due to the efforts of Annie and the women of WMU that the annual Easter mission offering was established in the Southern Baptist Churches in 1895.

Annie retired from WMU in 1906. Through the determination of Annie and other Southern Baptist women that WMU had been forged against fierce opposition from the male SBC leadership, at a time when public female leadership was virtually unknown. Throughout her career she had successfully gained SBC support due to her Christ-like passion and record for achieving results. Yet, controversy remained as her leadership, intentions, and decisions were at times questioned, or misunderstood and publicly aired in various Baptist state newspapers. WMU continued to evolve as an organization, Annie's days in leadership were over, so she decided to step down. In 1934, WMU recognized Annie's lifetime of work by naming the **Annual Easter Offering for Home Missions** in her honor. Thus, the **Annie Armstrong Easter Offering** was born with every dollar going to support missionaries and their work throughout North America. Annie Armstrong died on December 20, 1938, the year **WMU** celebrated its 50th anniversary. Southern Baptist churches continue to annually collect the Easter Offering for North American Missions in her name, the **Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions**.

Website: spiritofsba.org

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Around the Association

Bedford

- *The WMU and Faithful Chargers For Christ are presenting a Women's Event on Saturday, March 22nd, from 9:30 am until 12:00 pm in the Bedford Baptist Church Fellowship Hall. The cost of the event is \$10 and will be collected at the door on the day of the event. We will begin at 9:30 with a Coffee Bar, Opening Skit, Mixer and Door Prizes, followed by Brunch, Guest Speaker Ronna Vermaak and ending with a craft activity by Sherri Bowden. We plan to wrap up at Noon. We would love to have you join us. We are asking for pre-registration by March 15th. Call the church office to register (540-586-9564).
- *We will be traveling to the "Ark" on March 27, 28 and 29. There are still seats available, but the cutoff date is approaching.
- *The Faithful Chargers For Christ will host a plant sale for Local Missions on Saturday, April 19th, under the Pavilion at the Church. All sales are donations based.

Mentow

- *After a busy fall and Christmas season, January and February were marked with cancellations and rescheduling.
- *We were saddened, however, at the death of one of our members and friends. John Woodford left this earth for his Heavenly home late Saturday evening, February 1st, after several months of a failing pacemaker and worsening dementia. Funeral services were held at Mentow Baptist Church on Wednesday, February 5th. He had been a member of Mentow since 1963, where he had served faithfully in many leadership positions. His beloved wife of sixty years, Esther, served as Secretary of the Strawberry Baptist Association for 30 years until her stroke in 2015. Aside from being involved in the many ministries of the Association and the BGAV, he often was found helping Esther with the newsletter, annual report, and anything else which needed a helping hand. His faith led him to participate in numerous humanitarian missions, including church building projects and relief efforts following floods and hurricanes. He will be missed.
- *Like all others, we are anxiously awaiting spring.

Quaker

- *Women's Missions is planning to host a pastor's wives luncheon or brunch in September. Probably this will be on the second or third Saturday of September. I am requesting that if you are interested in coming to this that you text or call me at 732-766-5558 and give me your contact information. I will then contact you in the next couple of months with all of the information that you will need to attend this event. Lynne Stebbins 732-766-5558

Timber Ridge

- *Our ladies held their third annual game night, complete with a taco station with all the fixings, yummy desserts, fun games, lots of laughter and door prizes. A great time was had by all.
- *Our ladies recently enjoyed dinner and a movie. They saw the new release of "The Unbreakable Boy." Sweet sister fellowship was enjoyed by those who attended.
- *Our Youth showered our shut-ins with colorful spring flowers and an array of homemade cards on Valentine's Day. They also served our church folks a Valentine's spaghetti luncheon. It was delicious!! Timber Ridge loves and appreciates our awesome youth and youth leaders.
- *Our AWANA Clubbers have been working hard to complete their books. Special theme nights have included Candy Bar Night, Where is Jesus Night, Super Bowl Night, Red, White and Pink Night, Friend Night, and one of their favorites, Chocolate Night.
- *Pastor Phil recently began a new series on Sunday mornings, entitled "The Genesis Project." A deep look into the Book of Genesis will help to answer questions such as: How could there be light before the sun was created? What about the Big Bang? What about dinosaurs? Where did Cain get his wife? These intriguing questions and many others will be answered. Major questions will be answered by looking closely at the opening chapters of Genesis. The focus is placed upon the following: Creation from a Creator, The Origin of All Life, God's Ideal Marriage, Satan's Secret Strategy, Counting the Cost of Sin, How to Properly Worship God, Finding God's Favor, When God's Patience Runs Out, When God Seems Silent, and Viewing the World Through God's Eyes. Studying the Book of Genesis provides a solid foundation for a believer's walk of faith.

Church Clerks & Pastors

- *ACP's need to be Completed by March 31st. All participating Southern Baptist Churches are required to fill them out yearly.
- *We need a list of Deceased Members for 2024 so we can list their names in the Program of the Annual Meeting.

247th SBA Annual Meeting at (TBD) on Monday, April 28th

The Association will provide a Catered Meal. The Meal starts at 5:00 pm. Following the Meal, a Worship Service & Business Meeting will begin at 6:00; we plan to be finished by 7:30 pm.

If any church members who are not messengers would like to attend, please let us know the count. Visitors may attend both the meal & the meeting but are not allowed to vote on any business.

We Need the Count of those Coming to Eat by Friday, April 18th.

You may Email or Call your Messenger & Visitor Count to the SBA Office at sbava@shentel.net, or [540-586-8345](tel:540-586-8345) (*Office*).

Church Messengers for 2025

Beaverdam	<u>6</u>	Mountain View	<u>2</u>
Bedford	<u>4</u>	Pecks	<u>2</u>
Bethlehem	<u>2</u>	Quaker	<u>3</u>
Big Island	<u>2</u>	Sedalia	<u>3</u>
Diamond Hill	<u>4</u>	Shady Grove	<u>2</u>
Flint Hill	<u>4</u>	Suck Spring	<u>2</u>
Glade Creek	<u>2</u>	Thaxton	<u>2</u>
Hunting Creek	<u>2</u>	Timber Ridge	<u>4</u>
Mentow	<u>3</u>	Trinity	<u>4</u>
Mount Hermon	<u>4</u>	Walnut Grove	<u>2</u>
Mount Olivet	<u>2</u>		

Strawberry Baptist Association
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March

3/4 **Pastor's Conference**
3/2 - 3/9 **Week of Prayer - Annie Armstrong Easter Offering**
3/9 **Daylight Savings Time *Begins***