

# Strawberry Baptist Association

## Spirit



Rev. David Timma- *Moderator*

Kat Strickler - *Secretary*

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### Hebrews 12:1-2

*Therefore, since we also have such a large cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us lay aside every hindrance and the sin that so easily ensnares us. Let us run with endurance the race that lies before us, <sup>2</sup> keeping our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. For the joy that lay before him, he endured the cross, despising the shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

This month Quaker Baptist will be celebrating 250 years as a local congregation; Morgan's Baptist Church is 254 years old! Many others have Homecoming services as well. It is good to remember our history and invite people to remember the difference that congregations make in our families and communities.

But there is a temptation to get so enamored with our congregation's age that we forget that the purpose is not to show our age, but to show Christ's glorious salvation and sufficiency! We are here because God is good and faithful to save and preserve through the centuries. Remembering our history is good when it points us to God and strengthens our faith for current obedience.

So, in the process of celebrating, I think Hebrews 12 points us in the proper direction. The witness here is not the world being impressed with our longevity, it is the saints who have gone before and have seen and testified of God's faithfulness over the centuries. And our role, is not to point just to our local forerunners, but to point to Christ! It truly is Christ, not us that our children's children will need to depend on. They will need to look back and not see how enamored we are with our strength but see how faithful God is to those who truly trust him and obey him.

For many of our churches, we have been here a long time! But our longevity is not the same as fidelity to Christ. In fact, the longer we exist, the more opportunities there are for distractions. This is why new churches often flourish in the same area – they don't have built up and incorporated distractions to wrestle with! So, celebrate our historical presence by striving to make Christ central and putting aside distractions, even when they are nostalgic!

Longevity is not our Goal, God's glory is. And that means churches need to always be diligent to focus not on ourselves, but on Christ. And if anything pulls us from obedience, or distracts us, lay it aside to elevate Christ. My prayer is that if the Lord tarries, our churches will endure as living and vibrant testimonies of God's glorious power and presence!

# BGAV Annual Meeting

November 10<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>

MISSION

FORWARD

Philippians 3:14

Highlands Fellowship

Abingdon, VA

# SBCV Annual Homecoming

ANNUAL  
HOMECOMING

Advancing the  
*Gospel*  
Together

November 9<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup>

First Baptist Church Roanoke, VA

Hello Everyone, My name is Kat Strickler, and I am serving as the SBA secretary. I was born and raised here in Bedford County in a faithful Christian home by Johnny and Brenda Dooley. We attended a Baptist Church near my childhood home and I was saved at a young age and baptized a couple of years later. I attended Bob Jones University and received a degree in Office Administration. I met my husband, Ethan Strickler, there and he is the pastor at Thaxton Baptist Church. I plan to be in the office on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9-12.

## Strawberry Baptist Association

**Shady Grove** – Our VBS was held July 28- Aug. 1. 8 youth participated in VBS Boot Camp July 27. These youth served in many capacities during VBS. 32 adults served as staff and 40 children attended. \$870.35 was raised to support the Global Partners Go Center. School supplies were collected and distributed to Montvale, Goodview, and Stewartsville Elementary schools. A Family

Night supper and Backpack Blessing was held on Aug. 6 with many of the VBS families returning. On Aug. 28, we set aside the day to pray and fast for the Rev Home, a children's home we support in Haiti. The following Sunday we collected \$893 for our 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Rev Home Offering. Since beginning this Offering in 2021, we have collected and sent more than \$21,000 to support this ministry. God continues to bless at Shady Grove. Sunday, Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>, we held a baptism in Goose Creek. Since VBS, we have baptized 8 children, youth and adults.

**Trinity Baptist Church** - Oct 5<sup>th</sup>, 2-3 p.m. Bedford Life Chain in front of the Bedford Co. Court House. Oct 10-13, Faith and Blue Weekend

**Bedford Baptist Church** - We kicked off "Operation Christmas Child Shoebox" Campaign this past Sunday. There are several church-wide activities planned to help get everyone involved. The WMU will be hosting a "Ladies Night Out" on Tues. Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> in the Fellowship Hall. Our speaker will be from the Roanoke Rescue Mission. Dinner will be served at 5:30 pm and the Program begins at 6:00 pm. We invite all the SBA ladies to attend. On Sunday, Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>, we will have our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Chili Cook-Off with some friendly competition and great chili recipes. On Friday, Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> we will treat the kiddos with an inside "Truck or Treat". All are invited. We are excited to be working with the FCA from Liberty High School to host a Thursday. Morning "Breakfast & Bibles" at 7:00 am in the Fellowship Hall.

**Timber Ridge Church** - We recently had revival with Pastor Rusty Craig. The focus was a consistent and faithful prayer time, as well as being faithful to winning the lost to Christ. Our Youth & Outreach Pastor, as well as our youth and their parents recently went door-to-door evangelizing, praying for and inviting people to church in and around the Bedford area. We recently hosted the group, "**Sacred Harmony**" during our morning worship service. Our older and younger youth, as well as teachers and other school staff in our congregation participated in "**Bring Your Bible to School Day.**"

**Flint Hill Baptist Church** - We have called a new Pastor, Rev. Jeremy Breaux. Jeremy and his wife Melissa, live in Bedford. Jeremy comes to us from Central Baptist Church in Altavista. Jeremy begins his duties as our Pastor, starting Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Thaxton Baptist Church** – We have had several missions' trips this year. The Lockridge family took a month-long survey trip to Japan to connect with local pastors and Christians. A team of 5 went to England for 2 weeks to have a VBS near Birmingham and work with an ESL college ministry in Oxford. In July, we started a local outreach, called Serve Bedford, where we did a grill walk and handed out school supplies, as well as prayer walks around the town. Another team of 5 participated in the Send Relief Serve Tour to Colombia, SC. They participated in several ministries including grill walks, prayer walks and cleaning and painting projects for the community. We had our church anniversary of 169 years, on Sept 14, and we celebrated with the baptisms of two young people. We will be having a Trunk or Treat Nov. 1.

**Pecks Baptist Church** – We are having our Homecoming on Sunday, Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>, celebrating 130 years of God's faithfulness at our church. Service will start at 11:00am. Special music will be done by Smokey Wilson. Message will be brought by Brandon Palmer. There will be a catered lunch after service. We kicked off a new church year on Sunday, Aug. 31, with our Sunday School picnic, with great attendance, and kicked off a new year of AWANA and Youth on Sunday, Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>. Our church officially voted on, and adopted, a vision statement and core values for our church. Pecks vision is, "Proclaiming Christ's glory throughout Bedford and beyond." We are currently working through a sermon series on Sunday mornings this fall, called, "The Purpose of Pecks," that is working through each aspect of our vision statement and core values. We are having a Veteran's Lunch and Service on Saturday, Nov. 8, starting at 12:00pm. This is open to all veterans and their families. There will be a lunch served in our Fellowship Hall at 12:00pm, following that we will have a service in the Sanctuary, with a message from a chaplain. If anyone is interested, please RSVP to Brandon Palmer, either via email or text/phone call, 804-221-2119, to help us to know how much food to prepare.

Strawberry Baptist Association  
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## October

- 7 Pastors' Meeting at Shady Grove
- 20 Leadership Team Meeting

## November

- 2 Daylight Savings Ends
- 4 Election Day
- 11 Veterans Day
- 9-11 SBCV Annual Homecoming, First Baptist Roanoke VA
- 10-12 BGAV Annual Meeting, Highlands Fellowship Abingdon, VA
- 27 Thanksgiving Day