

Strawberry Baptist Association

Spirit



Rev. David Timma- *Moderator*

Kat Strickler - *Secretary*

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A New Life for You

9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self. You are being renewed in knowledge according to the image of your Creator. Col. 3:9-10

Every year we hear messages about resolutions and changes that we need to make to our lives in the New Year. Every year, gym memberships skyrocket for a couple months, books get started and better habits get attempted. And it seems as we grow older, we get more comfortable being who we are and not being as bothered that we haven't advanced as we thought we would. This seems quite reasonable to me for people that are lost and striving to justify themselves. For the truth is that no matter what we do, we won't be justified by works – and over time that becomes more and more evident to us. So when this time of year rolls around some strive and some settle.

So I'd like to encourage you to have a different spirit. Colossians 3 addresses the real issue. If you are a new creature in Christ, if you have been born again, raised into new life, it is not about changing what you are, it is about growing into what you are now. If you are justified, then live like it. If you are holy in

Christ, live like it. Learn to see yourself not as striving for justification – Jesus is the only one who can do that – but as one justified and now growing because the life you now have is from God and is to be lived in His image. We are not just holding on in this life waiting to escape. We are transformed people who should be demonstrating what that transformation is supposed to look like.

Practically speaking, many people wrestle with this and fall back into bad habits of thinking that undermine their actions. For the born again, the battle starts not with habits but with the mind and heart. We who are new creatures should have God and his glory as our goal. We don't see Heaven as simply escape, but culmination. We are given life to live, made new in Christ so we can be Christlike!

David

**POWER
WITNESS ENDS OF
ACTS 1:8 THE EARTH**

**YOUTH EVANGELISM
CONFERENCE 2026**

January 16-17
Friday - Saturday

London Bridge Baptist Church
2460 Potters Road, Virginia Beach, VA



**SBCV WINTER
BIBLE
CONFERENCE**

Tuesday, February 10 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM LibertyLive.Church 1021 Big Bethel Road, Hampton, VA

Reminder

ACPs have been mailed. Please 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 – We will have Sanctity of Human Life Sunday on January 18, 2026.

Mentow Baptist - The Autumn, Back-to-School, and Advent seasons were very busy. The last Sunday in October was the annual Homecoming with catered lunch. On Halloween, Mentow joined with other community churches to sponsor a Community Trunk or Treat event at The Glenwood Center. There, representatives from the churches served over 700 hot dogs and bowls of chili. As expected, it was a large turnout and great community fellowship. In November we filled shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child and prepared Christmas cards for residents of area nursing homes. In December, there were the usual Christmas activities with the JOY group enjoying a catered lunch at church, the Women on Mission partying and exchanging gifts, and the delivering of fruit baskets to shut-ins the community. The annual communion/candlelight service was held followed by a pizza/dessert fellowship. In November, the Men's Ministry revived their monthly Saturday breakfast meetings, and they continue to serve breakfasts each Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. During the year, the Men's Ministry and the Benevolence Committee have helped many in need with the Christmas season being no exception. We pray for a blessed new year and wish the same for other area churches.

Bedford Baptist - On January 4th, we will celebrate Commander James' 40 years of service at Bedford Baptist with a meal following worship service. Bea Haymes is turning 100 on January 7th. We are planning an "Open House" celebration from 2 until 4 on the 7th with light refreshments in the Fellowship Hall. If you know Bea, we invite you to help us celebrate her wonderful life. The Faithful Chargers will meet at 9:30 am on Saturday, January 10th at the Blue Lady which includes a light brunch and guest speakers Dana & Angie from Horizon. Our Wednesday Night Bible Study will start back on

January 7th at 6:45 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We are currently studying Hebrews.

Timber Ridge - We enjoyed our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service that focused on the birth of Jesus and celebrated it with the singing of many familiar Christmas songs. Our youth had a Christmas Lock-In activity with games, food and a Bible Study. Our AWANA and Youth will resume following the Christmas break on Sunday evening, January 4th at 5:30 p.m. Our Ladies will be having their annual game night on Friday, January 30 at 6:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. The theme is Wild West. Everyone is encouraged to dress in their best western attire. There will be fun games, delicious cowboy food, great fellowship and a whole lot of laughter.

WARNING: There will be Nerf battles. We recently welcomed a new family into our fellowship. Welcome Lewis and Mary Thomas and daughter, Maria. We are so happy to have you join us!

Thaxton Baptist – We had a beautiful candlelight Christmas Eve service with special music and carols. On January 4th, we will have our monthly Men's Prayer Breakfast at 8am. The youth will have our next Watch Party at the Strickler's home from 5-7 PM. We have restarted *The Chosen* and dinner will be provided. The Seniors Saints will have their monthly Young at Heart potluck luncheon on January 8th at noon. The Women's Ministry will have their monthly Mugs and Muffins meeting on Saturday, January 10th at 9 – 11 AM. Kids' Club will resume on January 14. The theme will be 'Wear a scarf'. Wednesday night dinners will also resume on January 14 at 5:30-6:30 PM. We will be having Soup and Chili, bread and fresh fruit. On January 16 – 17th, our teens will be attending SBCV's Youth Evangelism Conference in Virginia Beach. Every year this has been a time of worship, growth and blessing for all that attend.

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

January

- 1 New Year's Day
- 16-17 SBCV Youth Evangelism Conference, Virginia Beach, VA
- 19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day

February

- 6-7 SBCV Youth Leaders' Retreat, Williamsburg, VA
- 10 SBCV Winter Bible Conference, Hampton VA
- 19 BGAV Church & Clergy Tax Webinar