

Strawberry Baptist Association *Spirit*



Rev. David Timma- Moderator

Vernon DeLong – Interim Secretary

Vol 55 No. 7 July 2024

Blessed is the Nation whose God is the Lord, the people He has chosen as His own inheritance.

Psalm 33:12

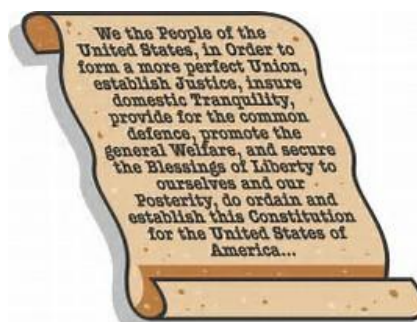
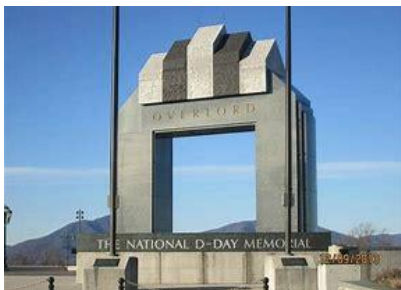


We celebrate the 4th of July this month and I hope you will have made a priority to spend time with your families and taken time to remember the freedoms we have as a nation. I have been blessed to have been able to travel and live outside of the United States and can say we live in the freest nation on earth! But that freedom came at a cost and should be guarded carefully and never taken for granted.

As Christians though, we sometimes make the mistake of associating our political freedom with our Spiritual. They are not the same, at all. Freedom in America is so that every person can follow their conscience within the law. Freedom in Christ is so that freed from sin we can follow Christ. Ironically the Bible reminds us that freedom is always relative to something else. Lost in sin we are actually slaves to sin, and political freedom becomes an opportunity to follow sin into immorality and destruction. Salvation brings freedom from sin and submission to God, and He becomes our master, and His will ours.

So free from sin and submitted to God, the Church ought to be modeling and live in such a way that shows obedience to God is the path to all of life's virtues. Sin pretends to be fun and free but ends in destruction and misery. God calls us to submit to Him in obedience, and yet leads to love peace and joy!

The freedoms we enjoy politically should be valued and treasured – but the freedoms in Christ are meant to show that true freedom isn't granted by government, but by God. Our lives should be gladly submitted to obedience to God's Word, not as an obligation to be resentfully fulfilled, but as an opportunity to live with the fullness of Godliness!



Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. John 15:13

Website: spiritofsba.org

facebook.com/sbavirginia

Phone: 540-586-8345

**New
Facebook****New
Website****NEW WEBSITE & FACEBOOK!****Website - <https://www.spiritofsba.org>.****Email is still: sbava@shentel.net****Facebook - www.facebook.com/sbavirginia****Ministry Opportunities****Thaxton Baptist Church**

TBC is seeking a man who has a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ and a calling by God to work with **Youth**. He will work with the volunteer **Youth Ministry Team** to guide our existing programs, including Sunday School, Wednesday night, weekly discipleship, and planned activities in a manner consistent with the Baptist Faith and Message 2000 and TBC's Core Values. He will work alongside the Senior Pastor and Ministry Team to develop and cast the vision for the ministry. He will be expected to be present at all youth functions.

Bedford Ride

I am reaching out to you with an urgent appeal on behalf of **Bedford Ride**, a vital service that provides transportation assistance to individuals in Bedford County and the Town of Bedford who are unable to drive or lack support for transportation. In recent months, we have witnessed a significant increase in the number of individuals seeking assistance from Bedford Ride to access crucial medical appointments and treatments. While our commitment to providing these essential services remains unwavering, our capacity to meet the growing demand is being stretched thin.

We are currently in urgent need of volunteer drivers who can spare some time to transport our neighbors in need to their medical appointments and treatments. The role of a volunteer driver is simple, yet immensely impactful: you provide the gift of transportation, enabling individuals to access the medical care they require to lead healthy and fulfilling lives; we provide the vehicle, cover the cost of gas and insurance, and all we ask from you is your time and willingness to lend a helping hand. Volunteer drivers not only make a tangible difference in the lives of those in need within our community, but also foster a sense of unity and compassion that lies at the heart of the Strawberry Baptist Association.

We are asking you to consider how you can assist us in this vital mission. Whether it's volunteering your time as a driver, dispatching, spreading the word within your congregation, or connecting us with individuals who may be interested in volunteering, every contribution, no matter how small, makes a meaningful impact.

If you or anyone you know is interested in becoming a volunteer driver for Bedford Ride or would like more information about our organization, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

Linda Brake

Program Manager, Bedford Ride - CVACL
540-587-3215 | 540-314-7371 | 540-587-3316
1710 Whitfield Drive, Bedford, VA 24523
bedfordride-cvacl.org



SBA NEWS

Bedford

- *We just finished up a fabulous week of **VBS** and celebrated with a “wrap-up” session on Sunday morning during Worship Service followed by a wonderful meal. Our attendance was great, and we averaged around 70 or 80 per night.
- *Summer is in full swing, and our July events include a **Youth Mission Trip** to Mobile, Alabama July 5th - 13th.
- *We are planning an afternoon **Family Movie Matinee** mid-July with light refreshments and great family fun.
- *We are hosting the ‘youth to adult’ **Quilt Camp** the week of July 29 – August 8 from Noon until 4:00 PM. Contact Theresa Waldron for more information.
- *The Friday evening “Pick-Up” **Bluegrass/Gospel Jam Sessions** start at 7 pm and end at 9 pm. Food is not provided, but visitors have been known to bring refreshments to share and the group appreciates this. We are pleased by the turnout and invite anyone to attend.

Pecks

- *We had an **Awesome VBS - The Great Jungle Journey!** We averaged over 40 participants each night with over 70 children, youth and adults registered for the week. We had 3 Professions of Faith as a result! **PTL!!!**
- *Our **Mission Team** is in Lynch, KY, working with Heritage Ministries, rebuilding houses and lives.

Timber Ridge

- *We had a fabulous week during our **Breaker Rock Beach VBS!** The kids had a wonderful week. We ended Family Night with a giant double water slide, pizza, sweet treats, take home goodie bags and the petting zoo from Twin J Ranch joined us as well. The offering the kids brought throughout the week enabled us to partner with the **Agape Ministries** to help with their summer missions project. We were able to supply their ministry and clients with box fans to beat the heat and stick deodorant. It was a real blessing being the hands and feet of Jesus for this project.
- *A couple of our youth will be attending the **Word of Life** youth camp in Florida.
- *On Wednesday nights during the summer, we will enjoy a video series from the **Evangelism Conference at Indian Trails** in Charlotte, NC. We kicked the first night off with ice cold watermelon and fellowship.
- *Pastor Phil is continuing his series in the **Book of Revelation** during our Sunday Morning Worship services. The Scriptures are pointing to many of the things that are happening in the world today.
- *Our ladies recently finished up their study in the Book of Leviticus. They will begin a study in the **Book of Numbers** later on this summer.
- *Our WMU is continuing to collect items for our **Haiti Mission's Project**. These hygiene items are flown into Haiti by a missionary pilot bi-weekly and are a great blessing to the women and young girls of this country.
- *We recently had the Gospel group **Sacred Harmony** in our morning Worship service, sharing the love of Jesus in testimony and in song.

Mission Trips

Pecks – Work on Houses - Lynch, KY - June 23rd -28th

Bedford - Mobile, AL - July 5th -13th

Suck Spring - VBS - McDowell County, WV - July 8th -10th

Thaxton - SBCV Family Missions - Hampton, VA - July 18th -20th

Thaxton - IMB - England - London, Cambridge, Oxford - July 27th -Aug 6th

Diamond Hill - Colombia - Aug 30th -Sept 8th

Thaxton - Send Relief (**Bedrock**) - Brownsville, TX - Oct 9th -13th

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

July

- 2 Pastor's Meeting - Thaxton Baptist Church (*Lunch provided*)
- 4 Independence Day
- 17 SBA Prayer Meeting - Thaxton Baptist Church
- 29-8/2 Quilt Camp *Beginner 1 & 2, and Intermediate Classes*
Bedford Baptist Church, 12 - 4 pm.