



THE **Spirit** OF  
STRAWBERRY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

<sup>6</sup>one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all<sup>1</sup>

Every May and June we celebrate Mother's and Father's Days. We rightfully see in them God's marvelous design – even when we are dreadfully short fallen examples. But I'd like to encourage you to look to the original parent in God. For He is the model, source, sustainer, and ever present Father to His children. In fact, as God reveals Himself as Father in Ephesians 4 The Apostle Paul lists several important attributes that can encourage us in a number of ways. God being over, through, and in all paints an image of parenting that is phenomenal.

Be encouraged by the example of God, as our heavenly father is everywhere and always active in His creation. That means He speaks as a parent who according to Romans “we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.”<sup>2</sup> So know that God is at work, even when we are unaware. As parents there is a parallel we should embrace. Most parents are aware that they are constantly providing for their children in ways that the children are unaware of. That is not a bad thing, but a Godly and noble thing to do for others where they cannot see. When we choose to serve

without needing immediate reward we train ourselves to look to God for significance.

In addition, our service as Christians should be in such a way as to redeem the time for God's sake and our own. While God controls all things, we do not. But not being in control of everything should never be an excuse for no action. We may not as parents be able to control the entire world around us, but we do have control over some things.

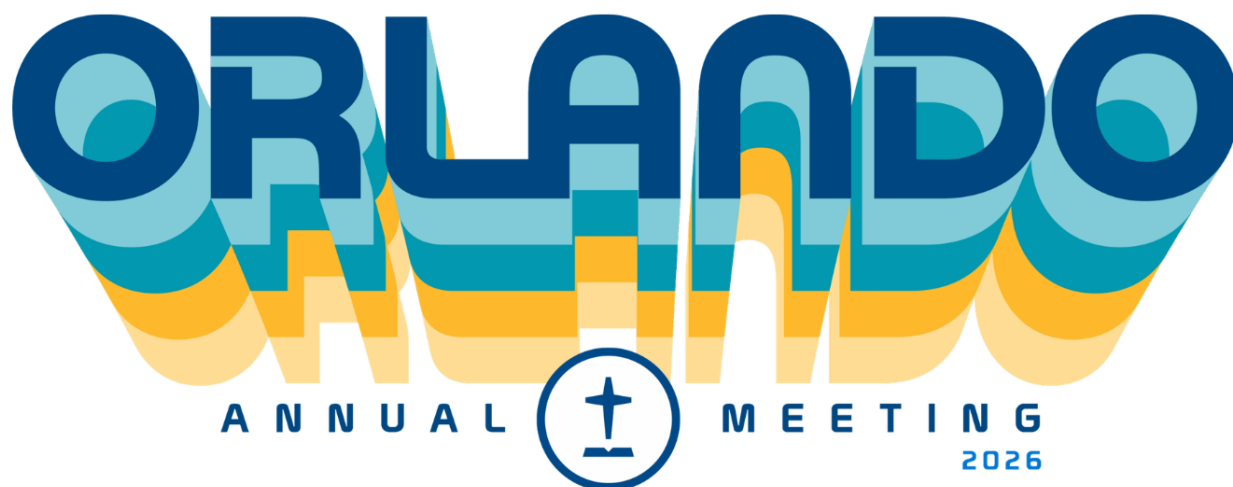
We do have control over our homes. So, if your child does not see God presented in school or society – make sure they see God present in the discussions at dinner. If prayer is forbidden in public or Government controlled spaces – make sure they hear and see and join with you in prayer. You do have some control, so use it to be an influence for Godliness where you can. God is exerting control over all things, we emulate Him when we take responsibility for what we can do. James wrote that to not do good when we can is itself sinful! SO, we can recognize that while the world is full of rebellion, we can and should use our abilities wherever it is possible to be Godly.

As earthly parents we equip and send our children beyond our protection as they age, but God goes with us at every age. He is an ever-present father, He equips, He sends, but He also goes before and with us!

<sup>1</sup> [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2025), Eph 4:6.

<sup>2</sup> [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2025), Ro 8:28.

*David*



ORLANDO  
ANNUAL MEETING  
2026

### Upcoming VBS Schedule

Church	Theme	Dates	Times
Pecks	Emerald Crossing	May 31 - June 4	6:30 - 8:30 PM
Suck Spring	Illumination Station	June 7 - 11	6:30 - 8:30 PM
Timber Ridge	Illumination Station	June 8 - 11	6:00 - 8:00 PM
Beaverdam	Rainforest Falls	June 15 - 19	6:30 - 8:30 PM
Diamond Hill	Illumination Station	June 21-25	6:30 - 8:30 PM
Thaxton	Kingdom Creatures	Wed. nights in July	6:30- 8:00 PM
Flint Hill	Illumination Station	July 6 - 10	
Bedford	Illumination Station	July 27 - 31	6:00 - 8:00 PM
Shady Grove	Junkyard Redemption	July 27 - 31	

## Church News

### Help Wanted

**Bethlehem** - We are seeking a part-time worship leader at our church with an annual salary of \$7,000.00.

Interested persons can call Pastor Barry to discuss the details. Rev. Barry J. Link, Sr. (434) 444-8024 (Church) (434) 941-8736 (Cell)

**Shady Grove** - On May 1, we served dinner at the Roanoke Rescue Mission. One of our team members served at Manna Ministries on May 7th. The Rescue Mission is always in need of volunteers. Call (540) 343-7227 to find out how your church can serve.

Our ladies had an afternoon tea on May 2 to celebrate two new births in our church family.

On May 3, we began our series of Matthew 6. Pastor Jason preached a sermon entitled 'The Heart of

Giving.' Sunday evening we had our monthly 'Pizza with the Pastors' and had an update from our IMB missionary Jason Fenton who serves in South Asia.

We celebrated Mother's Day with a baby dedication on May 10.

Our Deacons will serve our windows at our annual Widows Banquet on May 22.

We have set aside Thursday, May 28 as a day of prayer and fasting for the Rev Home in Haiti. On May 31 we will collect our 5th Sunday offering for this ministry. Contact Jonathan Grooms at Global Partners ([info@gpartners.org](mailto:info@gpartners.org)) if you would like to know more about this ministry.

On June 3, a team from Shady Grove will join a team from FBC Marshall, NC to travel to Cămărașu,

Romania to join His Grace Baptist Church in doing VBS, Women's Ministry, Evangelism, and Leader Training. Please be in prayer for the team.

**Trinity** – We will have our Independence Day celebration on June 28 at 7pm. There will be music, BBQ, and fireworks. All are welcome.

**Bedford** - Morning Worship on June 7th will be held at Eagle Eyrie beginning at 11:00 am, followed by a picnic, games and pool time. We will have Sunday School, and the church bus will leave at 10:30 am to provide transportation. The community is invited to attend this special event.

On Sunday June 7th at 6:00 pm, (and continuing the first Sunday of each month), we will continue with the Spiritual Companion Session. This is a one-hour session designed to provide an outline to help you study the Bible on your own. These sessions will be held in the Fellowship Hall and no meal is included. We are offering this to anyone who would like to attend. There is no RSVP, just show up.

The Faithful Chargers for Christ will meet on Saturday, June 20 for a planning session, hamburgers and pool time.

VBS will be held a little later this year due to scheduling conflicts. "Illumination Station" will be held July 27-31 from 6 until 8 pm. We certainly hope this change in dates will accommodate everyone.

Our youth Summer Mission Team will travel to Eagle Eyrie July 20 – 24 for a time of doing God's work locally.

Our Associate Pastor, Rev. Hein Vermaak has accepted a position at East Lake Community Church. We're excited for him as he begins this new opportunity, though he will certainly be missed. We appreciate his contributions and wish him continued success.

**Timber Ridge** - Our "Missions Sunday" was such a blessing to our church. We enjoyed hearing updates on the various missions that we support, and were so blessed to hear how the Lord is working in and through our missionaries, their representatives and their families. The missions that were represented included, Hunters for the Hungry, Agape, Hope Aglow, WMU, Covered Chaplain Ministry and The Gideon's Ministry. The morning message was brought by Lewis Thomas who recently spent some time in Romania ministering to the children in several orphanages.

We are excited to announce that our Youth Pastor, Nathan Redford, recently got engaged to his fiancé', Ellie Kasper. They will be married in a summer wedding

at Timber Ridge, and we are all so very happy to celebrate this joyous time with them.

Our Illumination Station VBS will be June 8-11th, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. for ages 3 thru 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Each day will be filled with music, crafts, snacks, games and Bible lessons that help children discover how Jesus lights our path and fills our hearts with hope. We will end the week with family night fun and activities.

We will be introducing "Family Worship" into our Sunday morning Worship time. Our desire is that our parents and children grow in the Lord together as families. The Bible speaks of telling future generations about God's works. Family worship is one of the most effective ways to do this, giving children a living example of faith in action. When families consistently gather around Scripture, they create memories and habits that shape their children's long-term spiritual identity and desire to know Christ at an early age.

Our WMU is continuing to collect items for the Haiti Pad Ministry.

**Mentow** - As we place flags on the graves of our veterans this Memorial Day, it will be done with a different perspective, especially at one grave site. A couple of months ago, a young lady from China visited the cemetery, leaving behind a note that she came to pay her respects and to commemorate one Lt. Commander Joseph E. Champe, U. S. Navy, who made great contributions to China and to the Chinese people during World War II. She was unable to find the grave site; but after a check of our records, we found a small military stone in the far corner, indicating that he had been awarded a Silver Star Medal. In our research, we found that he was awarded this medal for his gallant actions and dedicated devotion to duty which were in keeping with the highest traditions of military service. After the war ended, Champe went to what was the largest power plant in Shanghai, where he assisted Chinese engineers in restoring and maintaining the electric supply. Wow! Who knew a person of such importance was buried in that far corner of our cemetery?

As this is written, there are plans to have our semi-annual Music/Pizza event on Saturday, May 30, beginning at 4:00 p.m. We invite others to join with us for this special time of worshipping through music.

Then, on July 3, we shall celebrate the 125-year existence of the organization of Mentow as a Baptist Church. It all began with a Sunday School in 1900 which met in the nearby schoolhouse, until a meeting house was built and completed the following year. We praise God for providing us a meeting place and for blessing us these 125 years.

Strawberry Baptist Association  
P.O. Box 91  
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# June

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| 2     | Pastors' Prayer Meeting, Timber Ridge Baptist        |
| 7-10  | SBC Annual Meeting & Pastors' Conference, Orlando FL |
| 9     | SBCV Dessert Reception @ SBC Annual Conference       |
| 14    | Flag Day   |
| 19    | Juneteenth   |
| 21    | Father's Day   |
| 21-27 | Impact Mission Camp, Roanoke (BGAV)                  |
| 22-26 | Student Fusion Camp, Colonial Heights (SBCV)         |