

# Strawberry Baptist Association

## Spirit



Rev. David Timma- Moderator

Rev. Vernon DeLong – Secretary

Vol 55 No. 5 May 2024

The 246<sup>TH</sup> Annual Meeting of the Strawberry Baptist Association was held on Monday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, at Flint Hill Baptist Church. It started off with a great Meal, which was catered by Adell's from Rocky Mount, followed by a fantastic Worship/Business Meeting. The Theme was: "Prayer," because Jesus said, "My House shall be called a House of Prayer." (Matt 21:13) These are the Minutes of the Meeting.

The Two Hundred Forty-Sixth Annual Strawberry Baptist Associational Meeting was held on Monday April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, at Flint Hill Baptist Church. A catered meal was served from 5:00-6:00 in the Fellowship Hall. Rev. Vernon DeLong led the Call to Worship with song "Celebrate Jesus". Rev. Brian Brown led the Invocation and Welcome. Rev. Vernon DeLong led us in a Praise Medley of "God Is So Good" and "The Promises of God."

### Business Session:

The **Financial Report** listed in the program was given by Mrs. Lois Stevens, Treasurer.

Mrs. Lynne Stebbins presented the **New Budget**. Motion made to adopt the proposed Budget. Motion carried.

Mrs. Barbara Fifer, Clerk, recommended to the Association that we adopt the list of **Officers** listed in the Program. We are still looking for a secretary. Vernon DeLong is currently filling this position. Motion carried.

Mrs. Barbara Fifer, Clerk, gave the **Attendance Report** - 13 churches, 4 Admin Team members, 29 Messengers, 7 Pastors, and 23 Guests.

### New Business:

The first **Missions Scholarship Fund Grant** was presented to Emily Timma, Quaker Baptist Church, \$2,000.00, by Lois Stevens, Treasurer. She will be going with International Christian Centers for the Deaf to Brazil.

The Church's represented let us know what their church's have been doing as far as church work, missions, fundraisers, community outreach, **Quilt Camp, Women's Groups and Trips**, invitation to use "Pete Kirby" **Park** for walks, meetings, games etc. Mrs. Ginger Realmuto from Trinity Baptist Church informed us they have a \$2,000.00 **College Scholarships** available. Their church this year does not have any graduating seniors but this scholarship can be available to any other church. Rev. Ethan Strickler from Thaxton Baptist is starting a "Good News Club" in the fall at Montvale Elementary School. It is 6 weeks long and he would love to have volunteers from other churches. Rev. Brian Brown would like to start a monthly **Prayer Meeting** on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month at various churches within the Association to pray. Bedford Baptist is hosting **Beth Greer** on Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup>. They are going to **Eagle Eyrie** on June 9<sup>th</sup> for Worship Service and fellowship. Robyn Flint from Timber Ridge Baptist Church talked about Ministry "Embrace Grace." This ministry exists to help equip the church to love and be compassionate of women experiencing unplanned pregnancies. Through our message of love, we are helping women see that they can have their baby and not have an abortion. She also can receive salvation through this process. Robyn would love for other churches in the Association to get involved in this ministry.

Katie Brown from Flint Hill made a motion to form an **Associational Face Book** page. After discussion motion carried. Katie Brown, from Flint Hill, will be heading up this project.

Rev. Vernon DeLong led us in a Hymn Medley "Have Faith in God" and "What a Friend We Have in Jesus." The Annual Sermon was on "Prayer" Acts 12:1-19 by Rev. Brian Brown. After the sermon a **Prayer Guide** for Strawberry Baptist Association was handed out and we broke up into groups led by the attending pastors to pray. Our closing hymn was led by Rev. Vernon DeLong "Victory in Jesus." Meeting was adjourned with a closing prayer was led by Rev. David Timma.

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Fifer

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**New Website**Strawberry has a **NEW & UPDATED WEBSITE!**Check out <https://www.spiritofsba.org>.Email: [sbava@shentel.net](mailto:sbava@shentel.net)**New Website**

## Ministry Opportunity

### Hunting Creek Baptist Church

Hunting Creek Baptist Church, in Big Island, Virginia, is prayerfully seeking a part-time **Youth Pastor**. This position provides the opportunity to further HCBC's mission of making disciples and deploying them for mission by investing in middle school and high school students. A minimum investment of 10 hours per week is expected. This person should be willing to submit to the leadership, policies, and theological position of the church (Baptist Faith and Message 2000). For a detailed ministry/job description visit <https://www.huntingcreek.net/youth-minister-opportunity/>. Questions and resumes should be sent to Pastor Ken Bledsoe [pastorken@huntingcreek.net](mailto:pastorken@huntingcreek.net)

Hunting Creek Baptist Church, in Big Island, Virginia, is prayerfully seeking a part-time **Minister of Music**. This position provides the opportunity to further HCBC's mission of making disciples through worship music ministry. A minimum investment of 10 hours per week is expected. This person should be willing to submit to the leadership, policies, and theological position of the church (Baptist Faith and Message 2000). For a detailed ministry/job description visit <https://www.huntingcreek.net/about/minister-of-music-opportunity/>. Questions and resumes should be sent to Pastor Ken Bledsoe, [pastorken@huntingcreek.net](mailto:pastorken@huntingcreek.net)

## Missions Trips

Emily Timma (Quaker) - going to Brazil with  
International Christians for the Deaf May 21<sup>st</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>  
Pecks - going to Lynch, KY June 23<sup>rd</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>  
Bedford Baptist - going to Mobile, AL, July 6<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>  
Diamond Hill – going to Colombia, Aug 30<sup>th</sup> – Sept 8<sup>th</sup>

### “HELP!”

Hunting Creek Baptist Church is currently using “*Servant Keeper*” software that we purchased several years ago to maintain our Membership database. Because of changes they are making, we are considering changing to a different software program and thought perhaps one of the SBA churches could share what software they use. We do **NOT** use the financial part of the program, but only the Membership database portion. We need to be able to record membership info (*name, address, phone, DOB, member status, baptism date, etc*), make “groups” and print lists and mailing labels from groups, print membership directories etc. If you have any suggestions to share, please email Susan Massie (*Church Administrator*) at - [churchoffice@huntingcreek.net](mailto:churchoffice@huntingcreek.net).

# Church News

**Bedford** Baptist Church has proclaimed May *“The Month of Prayer”*. We have set aside days with opportunities for anyone to join us as we take time to pray. On Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00 – 11:30 am, we will partner with “Anxious for Nothing” as an opportunity to pray with a *“Prayer Walk”*. We will begin our walk at the Church, then go to Bedford Memorial Hospital, around Newton Circle and back to the church. We will stop at different locations, to *“Pray”* for those being treated at the hospital, for our community, our country and around the world, as well as other needs.

\*On Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, we will have our Missions Yard Sale from 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. This event will benefit the Summer Mission Trip and the Care Portal Ministry.

\*On Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, we will hold our *“Walking in Truth”* Woman's Women's Conference featuring Beth Greer and Wendy Knox. See registration details at [bedfordbaptist.org](http://bedfordbaptist.org).

\*We are teaming up with the Liberty High School FCA – Fellowship of Christian Athletes - to host the *Baccalaureate Service*, Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00. Graduates and their families are invited to join us for lunch from 12:30 – 1:30, in the fellowship hall. The service starts at 2:00 and Graduates are encouraged to wear their caps and gowns.

\*On Thursday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 10:00 am until 7:00 pm, we conclude our *“Month of Prayer”* with a *Contemplative Day of Prayer* in the Church Sanctuary. We encourage everyone to spend an hour (or whatever amount of time you can allow) of quiet time to pray. If you can't make it to the church, we encourage you to allow a portion of your day, wherever you may be, to sit quietly in prayer. We encourage anyone to participate.

**Pecks** - has Called a **New Pastor** – **Rev. Brandon Palmer**. Brandon, Rebecca and 1 year old Boaz, are moving to Bedford from Gloucester, VA, where Brandon served as Student Pastor at Petsworth Baptist Church. Brandon anticipates graduating from Southeastern Seminary, Spring 2025. We will have an Installation Service on April 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Quaker** - will hold **QUILT CAMP Advanced Class** will be at Quaker Baptist Church, June 24 to 28, from 3 to 8 pm. We will be doing a Christmas Wall Hanging. The Cost is **\$25.00**, plus cost of the pattern.

\***QUILT CAMP Beginner 1, Beginner 2, Intermediate Classes** will be at Bedford Baptist Church, July 29<sup>th</sup> - August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 12 to 4 pm the first day. The Cost is **\$25.00**. Contact: Teresa Waldron for more information [stampinteresa@gmail.com](mailto:stampinteresa@gmail.com).

**Thaxton** - is starting a *“Good News Club”* at Montvale Elementary School in the fall. It is 6 weeks long and they would love to have volunteers from other churches.

**Timber Ridge** - A group of men from Timber Ridge re-enacted “The Living Last Supper” in drama and in music.

\*Timber Ridge recently hosted a community “Wounded Warrior” event. Veterans were paired with area hunters and enjoyed a day of hunting and tracking deer. They returned to the church and enjoyed a delicious meal and were honored for their service to our country.

\*A Word of Life area representative spoke with our youth and their parents, outlining the Word of Life program and the many options that are available in this ministry.

\*Our AWANA Clubbers and their families enjoyed an end-of-the year celebration with awards, pizza, bounce houses, snow cones and other sweet treats. The area AWANA missionary, Wendy Shields, awarded Timber Ridge with a plaque, recognizing and celebrating their 30<sup>th</sup> year of AWANA ministry.

\*Our younger and older children recently enjoyed singing with our Worship Team.

**Trinity** - has *Scholarships* available to **ALL** graduating seniors from churches in Strawberry Association. These Scholarships are for young people who are interested in furthering their education and are involved in their Church and community. Contact the Church Office, 540-586-8010, for an application.

\**Life-Line Screening* is scheduled for Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm in the Church Fellowship Hall.

Strawberry Baptist Association  
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## May

<b>5/ 2</b>	<b>National Day of Prayer</b>
<b>5/ 7</b>	<b>Pastor's Meeting</b>
<b>5/14</b>	<b>Mother's Day</b>
<b>5/27</b>	<b>Memorial Day</b>