



The *Spirit* of Strawberry Baptist Association

Rev. David Timma- Moderator

Vernon DeLong – Interim Secretary

Vol 54 No. 10 Oct 2023

Prayer Summit

Over the past few months at Flint Hill Baptist Church, we have been studying the Book of Acts on Sunday mornings. While studying Acts and the Church in its earliest days, there has been a theme that has really stuck out as being of vital importance: **Prayer!**

After Jesus had ascended in Acts 1, we see the Apostles and others going back to the Upper Room and “*continually devoting themselves to prayer*” (Acts 1:14, NASB).

Before they cast lots to see who would replace Judas Iscariot, the group **prayed**. (Acts 1:24)

After Pentecost and the church bringing in the first group of new believers, we see the early church devoting themselves to teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and **prayer**. (Acts 2:42)

After Peter and John had been arrested and threatened repeatedly by the Council not to preach in Jesus’ Name anymore, they went back to fellow believers, told them what had happened, and they all **prayed** together for boldness. (Acts 4:24-31)

And these are just a few of the examples that you will find in the first few chapters of the Book of Acts, let alone throughout the rest of Scripture. The point being, the early church put a huge priority on **prayer**. And when we look around our churches today, and in the church as a whole in America, in most cases our prayer lives are lacking at best. When we look around the churches in our association, the churches in our state, and in our nation, it is not hard to see a decline in attendance, commitment, and passion in recent years. We can blame that on a number of things, but the question at this time in history is: What is the response of the Church today going to be? We can play the blame game, but that isn’t going to further the Great Commission. Looking at Acts, I’m convinced that nothing in our churches, association, or nation is going to change unless **Prayer** is at the center of it.

If we want to grow closer in our relationship with God, if we want to see change in our lives, if we want to see change in our churches and in our nation, then it must start with **prayer**.

Prayer is something that we have taken lightly for far too long. We need to emphasize **prayer** and get our churches **praying** together. That is where I hope you and your church will join us. Over the next couple of months, we would like to get a list of churches together that would be willing to host a **Prayer Summit** on a Wednesday each month. There would be a different emphasis to our prayers each month (examples: one month we will pray for our churches, one month we will pray for our families, missions/missionaries, the persecuted church, our military, our nation, our communities/neighbors, etc...) and the church that is hosting would have their pastor share verses or say a few words related to the topic of **prayer** for the evening. You can make handouts to emphasize certain things to pray for or to give people ideas of things to pray for in regard to each emphasis. Each church is encouraged to invite and come with their people to the **Prayer Summit** each month as a chance to fellowship with other believers and most importantly to come together in prayer with each other.

Depending on the number of topics of emphasis and the number of churches willing to host, this **Prayer Summit** may go for a few months or a year. But **Prayer** must be at the center of it. If your church would be willing to host one of these monthly **Prayer Summits** or if you have an idea for a topic of emphasis for one of these evenings, let me know so that we can make a calendar of host churches and assign topics to each church.

You can reach me by email at bebrown2@liberty.edu, my cell phone is (276) 219-2893, or leave a message at Flint Hill Baptist Church (540) 297-6783.

Brian Brown, Pastor

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Editor's Note:

*(I'm preaching a series of sermons on **Worship**. Worship is who we are, Worship is what we do, because God is Worthy of our Worship. Worship is Praising God, Praying to God and Preaching the Word of God. Worship involves Singing and Praising God through Music.)*

Here is an article on Music submitted by Carol Easterly, former Minister of Music at Trinity.

Music

Did you know there are health benefits associated with music? Music is a stress reliever; it promotes mental sharpness and nurtures social interaction. According to scientists, just listening to music is beneficial. Multiple areas of the brain all work together as they process different elements of sound and then bring them all together. Marco Chelo of the New York Jazz workshop says, "Learning music is like a gym for the brain." Maybe that explains why some of us are so tired after choir rehearsal, we've been "exercising" for at least an hour! Scripture tells us to "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord". Sometimes when we rehearse a new anthem for the first time it sounds something like joyful noise but as we continue to rehearse, good harmony begins to happen. As the song says, our prayer is that our music will be "a sweet sound in your ear", the ears of the congregation and especially the Lord.

From Guideposts magazine comes this quote: "We sing the melody to our life's song, but the people who touch us provide the harmony". Aren't we glad our lives are not a solo act but, instead, full of special people who have added such sweet harmony.

Whether it's contemporary worship songs or the hymns of the faith many of us grew up singing, let's continue to sing praises to our Lord.

Keep Singing, Carol

BGAV Annual Meeting

Celebrating 200 Years

November 13th - 15th

Bon Air Baptist Church,
Richmond, VA

SBCV Annual Homecoming

The Lord is With You

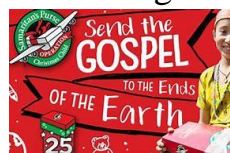
November 12th - 14th

The Heights Baptist Church
Colonial Heights, VA



Generation Christmas Child Collection Week November 13th - 20th

By now, you've handed out your *OCC Shoe Boxes*, collecting supplies and packing them. If you need any help, don't hesitate to call the SBA office and we will be glad to assist you any way we can.



Senior Pastor

Pecks Baptist Church is searching for a Senior Pastor. Pecks is a Traditional, Family Oriented Church, located on Route 43, 15 minutes south of Bedford. We are a Theologically Conservative Church, looking for a pastor that Loves God and the people in our Church and Community.

Resumes & a Cover Letter may be sent to: pastor@pecksbaptistchurch.org.

Around the Association

Bedford

*Our *Mission Team* will be traveling to Mobile, Alabama after the July 4th Holiday for a week of worship and service.

*On Sunday, Oct 29th, the entire church will participate in a *Dramatic Interactive Worship Service* – “Think Dinner Theater”, with no dinner. Immediately following, we will enjoy our Chili Cook Off Event in the Fellowship Hall.

*On Tuesday, Oct 31st we will again sponsor a “*Truck or Treat*” event. We’re hoping for many spooks and goblins and their parents to participate.

*We’re gearing up for *Operation Christmas Child*. We have women making dolls, men making boxes and our youth having packing parties in preparation for Dedication Sunday, Nov 12th.

*On Saturday, Nov 18th, volunteers from the Church who will drive the Shuttle Bus to assist with transportation from the parking lot to the Middle School for the *Women’s Craft Show*.

Bethlehem

*Our Pastor, Rev. Chuck Williams resigned the end of August to accept God’s Call to another Church in North Carolina. *Thank You for Giving to the Lord, during your Ministry at Bethlehem.*

Flint Hill

*We are having a *Community Picnic* at the Flint Hill Community Center, 8997 Dickerson Mill Road, in Moneta, on Saturday, October 21, 2023 from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. A Meal will be served from 5:00 - 6:00 pm, followed by live music with Smokey Wilson and Brenda. All are welcome.

Mentow

**November 1st marks the one-year anniversary of Joshlyn Lukin having served as Music Director of Mentow.* She has brought with her much talent as she wears many hats. We appreciate her being a part of our church family.

*The annual *Homecoming/Fellowship Day* will be on Sunday, Oct 29th, at 10:30 a.m. There will be no other ministries and services that day. Worship service will be followed by a catered meal provided by Adell's Catering Service of Rocky Mount.

*On Tuesday, Oct 31st, Mentow will join with other area churches to host *Trunk or Treat* at The Glenwood Center. Aside from candies being passed out, there will be free hot dogs, chili, desserts, and beverages. Everyone is asked to bring a non-perishable food item to benefit the AGAPE Center, which serves Bedford County residents in need.

Pecks

*We are going to the *Floyd County Arts & Crafts Festival* on Sat, Oct 7th. The Van leaves the Church at 8:00 am for a Day-long Trip.

**AWANA's* meets every Sunday evening at 5:30 pm. We have a big group of Sparks this year!

*Our *Christmas Cantata* will be held on Dec 3rd. Choir Practice is on Sunday evening after the Worship Service.

Timber Ridge

*We recently had “*Move Up Sunday*” for all our children in G.R.O.W. (Sunday School). Many of our G.R.O.W. teachers shared how they had been impacted by a teacher, leader or Bible lesson.

*Our Youth hosted a *Car Wash*, earning funds for an upcoming Youth Conference in Gatlinburg, TN.

*Our Youth participated in “*See You at the Pole,*” joining hundreds of students all over the U.S. who gathered to pray for their schools, classmates, teachers and administrators, and our country and its leaders.

*We had a “*So Long To Summer*” event which served as our AWANA kickoff, a one-day VBS and official goodbye to summer. The kids who attended were treated to a “Foam Party Event” with the Foam Party Guy who shot large cannons into the air filled with lots and lots of foam that resembled snow. The kids chanted “Let it snow!” Our Little’s enjoyed a fun bubble event. We enjoyed pizza, and Kona Ice served snow cones.

*A group from Timber Ridge enjoyed a trip to Lancaster, PA to the *Sight and Sound Theater* for the production, “Moses.” The group also enjoyed an Amish family style dinner and a local tour of the Farmland. The trip was rounded out with shopping at local malls and shopping centers.

*We will have “*Trunk-r-Treat*” in our church parking lot on Sunday, October 29th from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Our youth will be selling hot dogs, with proceeds going towards a youth conference in Gatlinburg, TN in November.

Trinity

*We will be traveling to Elkins, WV, to the *Gandy Dancer Dinner Theater* on Oct 20th - 21st, an overnight trip for Dinner and a Show.

*We will observe our *4th Faith & Blue Weekend*, on Oct 8th, with a special service for all local law enforcement agencies, with Lunch afterwards.

*Our *5th Sunday Singing & Fall Festival* will be on Oct.29th.

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

***Ministry
Opportunities***

3rd Pastor's Conference
@ *Trinity*

Birthdays

18th Robert Auxier (*Walnut Grove*)