

# The *Spirit* of Strawberry Baptist Association

Rev. Vernon DeLong-Moderator

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## *“Back to School”*

It's September, summer is over, the weather is starting to change, and the kids are **Back to School**. Those 3 words - **Back to School** – brings images and memories to all of us, whether we are parents getting ready for school, grandparents taking care of children before or after school, or even children going to school. We also know it costs money to send our children to school, whether elementary, high school or even college. We've all been to Wal-Mart to buy paper and pencils, markers, notebooks, calculators, and other essential items necessary for school work. A lot of us have helped pack a bus, or donated items to a particular school or group collecting money and supplies for those less fortunate that maybe cannot afford to buy school supplies. That's where we come in.

I'm talking **Adopt-a-School**. I'm asking, encouraging, each Church in Strawberry Association to intentionally reach out to make a connection, or relationship, with a school in your area. All our churches have students, teachers, or even administrative personnel, like principals and guidance counselors that attend our churches on a regular basis. So, I'm again asking, encouraging, each Church to not just adopt a student, but **Adopt the Whole School**. It may be something as simple as taking a box of school supplies to the School Office. Pastors, walk into the Principal's Office, stick out your hand, introduce yourself, and ask, "How can we Help you?" (*You may want to make an appointment first.*) You may be surprised by the look on his face; there are always needs for every school that the School Board and/or parents cannot take care of. The school may need more supplies that they use a lot of, like paper, pencils, markers, and notebooks, or sometimes special items like flash drives for the teachers. For several years our Church bought a pack of flash drives for a local school for the teachers to use.

Another idea for **Adopt-a-School** is to **Adopt the Whole School**. One Church did this, they adopted the Whole School. Every month they did something for the School, providing meals for the teachers, recognizing the support staff, the custodians, cleaning and maintenance personnel, and doing things for the office personnel. They recognized Teachers and Staff birthdays; awarding certificates for Employee of the Month, and served meals for Teacher Appreciation Week. Our Church provided Ice Cream because another Church provided Chick-Fil-A sandwiches for the Teachers for Lunch one day.

If your Church has a Youth Pastor, have him throw a tailgate party for your Youth group before the football games, an invite everybody, **"Ya'll Come!"** They may need to get permission first, but sometimes the school will allow the Youth Pastor to speak to the student body. What an excellent opportunity to witness for Jesus. Ask your Church members if they would be willing to serve as substitute teachers, to put a Christian witness in all our schools. There are many ways to witness and share the Love of Jesus.

What I'm talking about is **Missions** and **Ministry**. If your Church has students or Teachers in a local school, what an opportunity to **Minister** to them as they teach and help their students, and a lot of times, are under-appreciated. As for the students, they get to see Jesus outside of the Church walls, as your Church **Ministers** to them, encouraging and helping them along the way. But this is also **Missions**, you're helping someone that needs Help, and cannot help themselves, and not expecting anything in return. Your Church may not have any students, teachers or administrators in the school, and you may never get any new members from the school, but **GO** and **Give** something, anything, and do it in Jesus' name, whether a pencil and paper, or a meal, a cup of water, or even a Thank-You. (**Missions is not getting your nickel back**) You do this because Jesus said **Do it**. (*He said something about "Go," and "Love your neighbor."*)

Our Schools, both public and private, are **Mission Fields**, crying out for us to **Come and Help** them. Would you consider going **Back to School**, as a Mission project this year? **For the Whole Year!**

*Vernon*

# Church News

## Bedford

\* Back to school activities and “Celebration Sunday” were enjoyed by everyone as we closed out the month of August.

\*September is an exciting month for Bedford Baptist. We are starting with welcoming our new Pastor, Rev. Michael Khol, and his family on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Activities are planned to introduce him to the community.

\*September is also Sunday School Promotion month with activities planned each Sunday.

\*We will also do a Kick-Off for our Shoe Box Ministry, “Operation Christmas Child”, on September 18<sup>th</sup>.

## Mount Olivet

\*We will be hosting a community Sunday Fun-day, October 9, 2022. An outdoor service will be at 10:45 AM with Pastor JR Graybill and music by Whole New Me. Lunch will follow services with a concert by Whole New Me. There will be something for everyone—Bounce House, Corn Hole, Volleyball, Playground and more! EVERYONE IS INVITED!

## Trinity

\*September 15<sup>th</sup> – November 10<sup>th</sup>, Trinity will be hosting a Bible Study open to the community, ages 13 and up. The Study by Ann Graham Lotz is titled “Jesus In Me –Experiencing the Holy Spirit as a Constant Companion”. Call Terri at 434-944-6234 to register. Books are \$13 (Scholarships available). This is an 8 week study.

## Strawberry Baptist Association

**We are in need of some youth from churches to help set up and take down the tents for Centerfest. We have someone to instruct but we are in need of help. Please Contact Joyce Kanode Carwile at 540-875-7778.**

## Timber Ridge

\*Our ladies recently began a new Bible study entitled “It’s not suppose to be this way” by Lysa Terkeurst.

\*Our ladies are also starting a new ministry entitled the “Sunshine Committee” which aims to focus on bringing ladies of all ages together for a time of fun, fellowship and encouragement.

Pastor Phil recently began a new series in the book of John during Sunday Worship..

\*Free State Academy of Timber Ridge back to school is September 6<sup>th</sup>.

\*September 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM we start our college age meetings lead by Pastor Kaleb. Join us each Thursday for food, fellowship and see through the Bible the plans God has for each of us.

\*AWANA and Jr.-Senior High Youth Meetings Kick-off September 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:30 PM to 7:15 PM. We will have Giant Slides, Dunking Machine, Snow Cones, New GaGA Ball court, Bible Time, Snack time and learning about the love of Jesus.

\*Westward Road Gospel Sing will be here September 18<sup>th</sup> for the 11:00 worship service. This is one of the top touring Gospel Groups in the US. You will be blessed and encouraged by their harmony and music.

\*September 25<sup>th</sup> is our Western Gospel Roundup. Please plan on dressing “Western” and “Roundup” all those un-churched friends! Special speaker will be Dr. Dave Adams. Pony rides for the kids after the service and a western lunch will follow. We will have lots of fellowship and fun.

\*September 4<sup>th</sup> is Bowling for youth from 6 PM to 8 PM.

\*Movie nights start September 23<sup>rd</sup>. from 6:30 PM to 9 PM. Food, Fellowship and a movie.

## Strawberry Baptist Association

We are taking donations for bottled water for Centerfest which is September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please drop off donations at the Strawberry Baptist Office at 947 Lyle Street.

## WMU

Teresa Waldron has served as Director and Debbie Radlbeck has Assistant Director of Strawberry Baptist Association WMU for a number of years, which included serving through Covid which was very challenging. We are now looking for ladies to serve in these leadership positions. If anyone from your church would be interested and willing to serve, please contact Lois Stevens at 540-583-8258  
[lois62844@gmail.com](mailto:lois62844@gmail.com)

SBA WMU will be hosting the Pastors Appreciation Dinner November 3<sup>rd</sup> at Bedford Baptist church at 6:00 PM. We are looking for **volunteers** to help with serving and providing food. The items needed are: **Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Mac & Cheese, Green Beans, Sour Dough Bread and 4 desserts.** Contact Teresa Waldron at 540-204-2298 ([stampinteresa@gmail.com](mailto:stampinteresa@gmail.com)) or Debbie Radlbeck at 757-373-8962 ([radlbecc@hotmail.com](mailto:radlbecc@hotmail.com)).

**Bedford Baptist Church welcomes their new pastor, Rev. Michael Khol, and his wife Laura. They have two sons, Benaiah and Ethan, and one daughter, Cara. Rev. Khol is a graduate of the Baptist Theological Seminary of Richmond, Va. with a Masters of Divinity. Rev. Khol led a prison ministry to Spanish speaking inmates, is the director of a mobile food bank, and has coordinated many local community work projects.**

## Attention all Pastors:

The SBA WMU is hosting a Pastors Appreciation dinner for all Pastors and their wives on Thursday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> at Bedford Baptist Church at 6:00 PM. Please RSVP by Tuesday, October 11<sup>th</sup> to Teresa Waldron 540-204-2298 ([stampinteresa@gmail.com](mailto:stampinteresa@gmail.com) or Debbie Radlbeck 757-373-8962 ([radlbecc@hotmail.com](mailto:radlbecc@hotmail.com))  
 Come join us for fellowship and relaxation. We hope to see you there.

**We will be receiving the ACP's in September and forwarding them on to the Church Clerks. The ACP's may be filled out online, or you may fill in the information and bring them to the SBA office for us to enter the data for Lifeway. The Deadline for completion is October 7th. Please have these back to the SBA office by that date. It is important to have this information for the Southern Baptist Convention.**

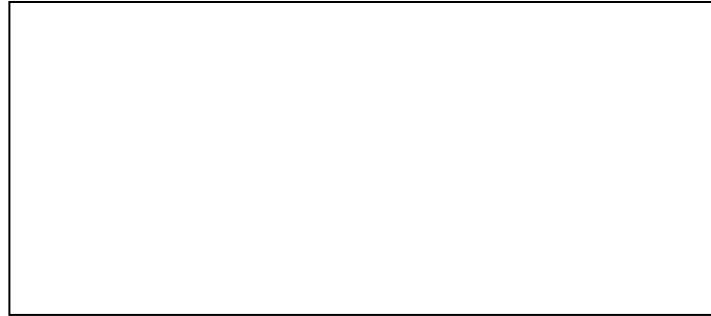
## *"Gingerbread" Food for Thought*

I believe that God has given us Gospel Music for His Holy Spirit to:

- \*Move and Convict the hearts of those who are lost.
- \*Encourage and Bless His Children.
- \*Provide a marvelous Tool for His people to Worship and Praise Him.

I **respect** and **appreciate** all types of Gospel Music: Traditional, Blue Grass, Contemporary, Southern, Soul and any other form that makes a Biblical message clear  
 We do not **Have** to **Love** the song or style of music, however we are **Commanded** to Love the one who is presenting it!

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



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Happy

Happy

*Mike Jones - September 1<sup>st</sup>*  
*Michael Cox- September 12<sup>th</sup>*  
*David Timma-September 25<sup>th</sup>*

birthday!

Happy

Happy

birthday!

Happy birthday! Happy birthday!