



The *Spirit* of Strawberry Baptist Association

Rev. David Timma- Moderator

_____ - Secretary

Vol 54 No. 9 Sept 2023

From our Constitution & Bylaws - the **Administrative Team** is composed of the Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Secretary, Treasurer, and Clerk. The **Administrative Team** usually meets on a quarterly basis, or as needed, to handle any Business of the Association between Meetings of the Leadership Team and the Annual Meeting. The **Leadership Team** is composed of the Officers of the Association, the Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Secretary, Treasurer, and Clerk, **Plus** the **Pastor** and **1** elected representative, or messenger, from each Church. The Duties of the **Leadership Team** is to conduct the business of the Association between the Annual Meetings. **The SBA Leadership Team met Tuesday, August 29th, at 7:00 pm, at Trinity Baptist Church to conduct the Business of the Association.**

The purpose of Tuesday's **Leadership Team Meeting** was to discuss the **Missions Grant** program that was introduced at the April 24, 2023, Annual Meeting. David Timma, Moderator, presented an Application that each Church would use to request a **Missions Grant**, limited to up-to **\$2,000** per person each year and up-to **\$20,000** per Church each year. The Applications must be submitted at least 1 month in advance to the SBA Office, or the SBA Moderator, in order to be approved. The **Missions Grants** may also be used for Local Missions Projects here in Bedford County, as well as Missions Trips. A 6 month Financial Report was given by Lois Stevens, Treasurer, stating that we had **\$71,453.87** in the Checking Account and a Total of **\$159,179.84**, with the CD's. Receipts were **\$8,604.43** from **9** Churches. After discussion and a question and answer period, **the Leadership Team Approved the Missions Grant Program to be Voted On at the next Annual Meeting.**

The **Leadership Team** voted to approve the Next **Annual Meeting** is to be held again in the Spring, preferably sometime in April, but after Easter, and to be planned by the Admin Team. The **Leadership Team** approved the same **Annual Meeting** format that we used for the last couple of years. There will be a Catered Meal provided by the Association at 5:00 pm, followed a Business Session starting at 6:00 pm.

The **Leadership Team** also discussed **Centerfest**; which is scheduled for Saturday, Sept 23rd, 2023. (**4th Saturday**) We need someone to serve as the Director, Facilitator, Supervisor, or Leader for **Centerfest** to coordinate the setting up and taking down of our SBA tent. In past years, the men of Trinity volunteered to handle setting up & taking down the Tent. However, these men are not able to help this year, so we need someone to step up to lead this **Missions & Ministry Opportunity**. The WMU also coordinated Volunteers for the Baby Changing Station and distributing bottled water that the Association provides. We do not have an associational WMU anymore, so maybe a Church WMU, or Women's Ministry group, could step up to serve at the baby-changing station. **Centerfest** is a wonderful Missions & Ministry Opportunity as an **Outreach Event** to our community as many visitors come to downtown Bedford each year. If you would like to Serve as **Centerfest Director**, or Volunteer, please let the SBA Office know as soon as possible.

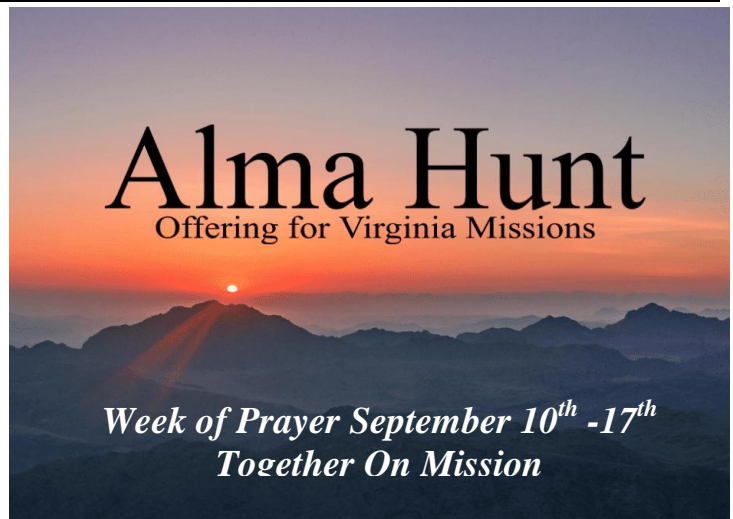
The **Leadership Team** approved Vernon DeLong to serve as **Interim Secretary** for the Association after Joyce's Retirement. Vernon will be in the SBA Office 1 day a week, to check messages, return phone calls or whatever is needed. Vernon will also be responsible for the **Spirit**, our monthly Newsletter, so please send him your Church News. We want to **Communicate** to all the Churches what's happening in our Churches. Vernon also serves as Transitional Pastor at Pecks and is Vice-Moderator for SBA.

Strawberry Baptist Association – There's a Mission Field Out There!



Lives are *Transformed* by the Gospel, thanks to your gifts.

visionvirginia | 2023 WEEK OF PRAYER & OFFERING FOR STATE MISSIONS | sbcv.org/visionvirginia



Alma Hunt

Offering for Virginia Missions

Week of Prayer September 10th -17th
Together On Mission



Operation Christmas Child

Collection week is November 13th -20th.
You are probably well on your way with planning for your OCC Shoe Box collection. If you need help with your planning process, call the SBA office and we will be glad to get you headed in the right direction.

CenterFest

Centerfest is scheduled for Saturday, Sept 23rd, 2023 (4th Saturday). We Need someone to serve as the **Facilitator/Supervisor/Leader** for **Centerfest** to coordinate the setting up and taking down of our SBA tent.

Centerfest is a wonderful Mission Opportunity as an **Outreach Event** to our community as many visitors come to downtown Bedford each year. The Association provides a Baby Changing Station and distributes bottled water.

If you would like to Serve as **Centerfest Director**, or Volunteer, please let the SBA Office know as soon as possible.

BGAV News

Coming Soon – Impact Missions

Many **BGAV** churches *already* give designated gifts to these in the areas of poverty, refugee ministry, and church planting--to name a few.

Impact Missions is excited to develop and grow this exciting new pathway for funding international missions both now and in the future. **Impact Missions** offering is a new *alternative*, and not a replacement for any other offerings. This new offering is for churches seeking a different direction. The **BGAV** will continue to receive Lottie Moon Christmas Offering funds from **BGAV** churches and forward those funds to the Southern Baptist Convention.

BGAV News

Planning Financial Support For Church Staff Seminar

Sept 21, 2023, 9:30 - 12:00, BGAV Office.

Join us for the Planning Financial Support for Church Staff seminar, presented by BGAV's Church Financial Specialist Jeff Cranford, to learn about all aspects of setting personal income and providing benefits for church staff - compensation, benefits, and ministry-related expenses as part of the overall church budget.

Cost to attend OR receive video link:

- \$15 per person for BGAV Churches
- \$30 per person for non-BGAV Churches

Cost to attend AND receive video link:

- \$20 per person for BGAV Churches
- \$40 per person for non-BGAV Churches

Around the Association

* * * Pastor's Wives * * *

All of the SBA Pastor's Wives are Invited to a Special Dinner on Thursday, Sept 21st, at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall of Quaker Baptist Church. The WMU are providing a delicious meal for the wives of our pastor's! Please **RSVP** by Thursday, Sept 14th, so we know how much food to prepare. Please Text or Call Lynne Stebbins at (732) 766-5558.

Bedford

*We are excited to announce that we have hired a **new Worship Leader** to lead in our music ministries and the church choir, as well as many other administrative duties. **Cassandra Smith** will begin on September 1, 2023. The church had an opportunity to meet Cassandra and enjoy her multi-talented music abilities at a recent business meeting. She was raised on a small horse farm in Dillsburg, PA and moved to Virginia to attend Liberty University as a Choral Music Education Major. We hope you will take any opportunity to stop by and meet Cassandra.



*We are blessed to have many School Teachers as members, many of which also teach SS classes. These teachers work to equipment our children and youth with tools to help them cope with new situations which they may encounter in today's challenging world.

*Looking forward, our Outreach Committee is gearing up for "**Truck or Treat**" in October, a **Community Thanksgiving Luncheon** in November and another busy December.

Big Island

*We are having a **Luau Day** to celebrate our Pastor's **One Year Anniversary**. We are capitalizing on the shared name and going Hawaiian for a Sunday on Sept 10th. We are having pork, spam, coconut, and pineapple and so much more in a post service meal and potluck. We are hoping to truly have a great time as a Body of Believers.

Mt. Olivet

*We are having a **Sunday Funday** on Sept. 10th. It will be an all day **Outdoor Event** of worshipping, music, food and fellowship.

Pecks

*We have called **Rev. Vernon DeLong** as **Transitional Pastor** to lead us as we begin our search for a New Pastor.

*Our Choir has started back up, we practice after the Sunday evenings Worship Service. We are planning a Christmas Cantata on Dec 3rd.

*AWANA's starts back up on Sept 10th. We are looking forward to a great year.

*We are planning a Day Trip to the Floyd County Arts & Crafts Festival on Sat, Oct 7th.

Trinity

*We served Lunch to the staff of Liberty Middle School. We had opportunity to visit with the teachers/staff and pray with some of them. Thanks to our church volunteers who helped with this ministry.

Annual Church Profiles!

We will be receiving the Annual Church Profile's (*aka. Church Letters*) 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.

Deadline for the ACP's is Oct 30.

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

***Ministry
Opportunities***

4th Labor Day
5th Pastor's Conference
@ Trinity
23rd Bedford Centerfest

Birthdays

1 st	Mike Jones	<i>Sedalia</i>
12 th	Michael Cox	<i>Suck Spring</i>
25 th	David Timma	<i>Quaker</i>