



# The *Spirit* of Strawberry Baptist Association

[David Timma - Moderator](#)

[Vernon DeLong – Secretary](#)

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## “The Love of God”

**Happy Valentine’s Day!** Valentine’s Day, when people’s hearts turn to **Love**, or at least buying gifts, flowers and/or candy for someone they love. I define **Love** as *doing something for the well-being of the one you care for*. We know John 3:16, “**For God so Loved the world that He Gave His only begotten Son.**” When God loves, He **Loves All**; the entire world, everybody. When God loves, He **Gave His All**, His only Son, Jesus, so that **All** could be Saved. When God loves, He gave His **All**, so we could receive His **All**, “*whoever believes should not perish, but have everlasting life.*” We get Heaven, a place God has prepared for those who believe and accept His Son as Lord and Savior, where we will Live with Him forever. **How long is “Everlasting Life?”**

The apostle John writes 1 John as a commentary on the Gospel of John. In 1 John 4:8, John says, “**God is Love.**” John comments on John 3:16, “**In this is Love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.** (1 John 4:10) John shares **3 Basic Facts about the Love of God.**

**1<sup>st</sup> – The Tragic Fact – “Not that we Loved God”.** Paul tells us, “*although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, and exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator.*” (Rom 1:21-25) When left to ourselves, mankind has always turned away from God, and sunk to the bottom of the barrel. We have 3 inherent problems - Love of Sin, Love of Self and Love of Satan. We want to Feel Good, Look Good and Act Good. Paul goes on to say, “*Therefore God gave them up,*” (Rom 1:26) to suffer the Consequences of Sin – “*fruits of Unrighteousness.*” The results of Sin, “*The wages of Sin is Death*” (Rom 6:23) Someone had to Die for Sin, and “*without the shedding of blood, there is no Forgiveness of Sin.*” (Heb 9:22) **All because We Did Not Love God. We Turned our Back on the One who Created us, Loved us, and then Died for us!**

**2<sup>nd</sup> – The Telling Fact – “but that He Loved us”.** But God loved us Anyway, He Loved us when we didn’t Love Him, He Loved us in spite of ourselves, and He Loved us regardless of what we have done. We turned our backs on Him. “*But God demonstrated His love toward us, while we were yet Sinners, Christ Died for us.*” (Rom 5:8) God Loved us when we were Wicked, Wayward and Worthless, away from God, headed down the path to destruction, Hell. But God had a Plan. “*He who knew no Sin became Sin for us.*” (2 Cor 5:21) It took a Sinless Sacrifice from a Sinless Savior to pay for our Sins. God loved us enough to Die for us. **How Great is that Love.** He gave Himself for us.

**3<sup>rd</sup> – The Triumphant Fact – “He sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins”.** Propitiation means payment. Someone had to Pay the Price of Sin. “*without the shedding of blood, there is no Forgiveness of Sin.*” (Heb 9:22) Some Bible translations translate the word “**propitiation**” in 1 John 4:10 as *Expiation* – to annul, take away, the guilt of sinful man, to wash away sins. Other translations use the word *Propitiation* – to appease the wrath of an angry God, “*for the wages of sin is death.*” (Rom 6”23) But God, the Son of God, Jesus, paid the Payment, the Penalty of Sin, which is Death, not just physical death, but spiritual death, eternal separation from God. Jesus Died on the Cross in our Place. He Replaced us in Death, Redeemed us from the penalty of Death, and Restored us right Relationship with God – Justified. (It’s just-as-if-I’d never sinned) **Victory in Jesus – He died for me. Yes Lord, I Believe!**

Valentine’s Day – How about the Love of God? For God so Loved that He sent His Son to die on the Cross so that **All** could be Saved. John finishes his thought about God’s Love in 1 John 4:11 “**if God so Loved us, we ought to Love one another.**” **Happy Valentine’s Day! Go and Share His Love!**

*Vernon*

Financial Report - Jan - Dec 2024																
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD	Expenses	Budget	Budget
Beginning Checkbook Balance	\$71,845.54	\$72,914.73	\$73,334.08	\$73,301.33	\$69,791.40	\$64,917.25	\$64,737.93	\$64,457.06	\$64,940.24	\$64,461.88	\$62,154.58	\$62,217.60	Income			
<b>General Fund</b>																
Undesignated Receipts	\$1,838.05	\$1,128.10	\$736.49	\$1,314.11	\$14,656.92	\$737.26	\$1,649.64	\$969.39	\$2,260.63	\$1,970.76	\$794.62	\$964.73	\$29,020.70			
Designated Funds	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00			
Total Receipts	\$1,838.05	\$1,128.10	\$736.49	\$1,314.11	\$14,656.92	\$737.26	\$1,649.64	\$1,369.39	\$2,260.63	\$1,970.76	\$794.62	\$964.73	\$29,420.70			
Balance (Ckbook Bal + Receipts)	\$73,683.59	\$74,042.83	\$74,070.57	\$74,615.44	\$84,448.32	\$65,654.51	\$66,387.57	\$65,826.45	\$67,200.87	\$66,432.64	\$62,949.20	\$63,182.33				
Total Expenses	-\$768.86	-\$708.75	-\$769.24	-\$4,824.04	-\$19,531.07	-\$916.58	-\$1,930.51	-\$886.21	-\$2,738.99	-\$4,278.06	-\$731.60	-\$818.03	-\$38,901.94			
<b>Ending Checkbook Balance</b>	<b>\$72,914.73</b>	<b>\$73,334.08</b>	<b>\$73,301.33</b>	<b>\$69,791.40</b>	<b>\$64,917.25</b>	<b>\$64,737.93</b>	<b>\$64,457.06</b>	<b>\$64,940.24</b>	<b>\$64,461.88</b>	<b>\$62,154.58</b>	<b>\$62,217.60</b>	<b>\$62,364.30</b>	<b>(\$9,481.24)</b>			
<b>CD's</b>	<b>\$53,814.77</b>	<b>\$53,814.77</b>	<b>\$53,824.85</b>	<b>\$53,734.11</b>	<b>\$40,000.00</b>	<b>\$40,000.00</b>	<b>\$40,000.00</b>	<b>\$40,000.00</b>	<b>\$40,000.00</b>	<b>\$40,000.00</b>	<b>\$40,000.00</b>	<b>\$40,000.00</b>	<b>\$41,158.05</b>			
<b>BGAV Foundation</b>	<b>\$35,805.57</b>	<b>\$35,805.57</b>	<b>\$37,187.15</b>	<b>\$37,187.15</b>	<b>\$37,187.15</b>	<b>\$37,516.17</b>	<b>\$31,405.06</b>	<b>\$31,405.06</b>	<b>\$39,845.65</b>	<b>\$31,405.06</b>	<b>\$31,405.06</b>	<b>\$38,783.75</b>				
<b>Total - All Accounts</b>	<b>\$162,535.07</b>	<b>\$162,954.42</b>	<b>\$164,313.33</b>	<b>\$160,712.66</b>	<b>\$142,104.40</b>	<b>\$142,254.10</b>	<b>\$135,862.12</b>	<b>\$136,345.30</b>	<b>\$144,307.53</b>	<b>\$133,559.64</b>	<b>\$133,622.66</b>	<b>\$142,306.10</b>				
<b>Ministries</b>																
CenterFest	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0%
Missions Grants	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	18,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	800.00	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	23,800.00	10,000.00	238%	
Local Church Ministry & Outreach	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,000.00	0%
Quilting Camp	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0%
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>2,000.00</b>	<b>18,000.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>800.00</b>	<b>2,000.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>23,800.00</b>	<b>\$15,200.00</b>	<b>157%</b>	
<b>Personnel</b>																
Clerk's Expense Reimbursement	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	N/A
Secretary's Salary	243.95	251.90	251.90	275.91	351.92	267.82	251.90	227.88	247.93	271.94	255.78	227.88	3,126.71	5,000.00	63%	
Secretary's Social Security	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	N/A
Treasurer's Mileage Reimbursement	0.00	0.00	60.97	0.00	0.00	60.97	0.00	0.00	60.97	0.00	0.00	60.97	243.88	250.00	98%	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>243.95</b>	<b>251.90</b>	<b>312.87</b>	<b>275.91</b>	<b>351.92</b>	<b>328.79</b>	<b>251.90</b>	<b>227.88</b>	<b>308.90</b>	<b>271.94</b>	<b>255.78</b>	<b>288.85</b>	<b>3,370.59</b>	<b>\$5,250.00</b>	<b>64%</b>	
<b>Associational Office</b>																
Office Supplies	99.41	31.33	30.85	169.11	154.04	162.68	253.50	29.39	217.61	80.64	49.76	103.37	1,381.69	1,700.00	81%	
Website	0.00	0.00	0.00	553.50	600.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,153.50	1,200.00	96%	
Computer Maintenance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	250.00	0%	
SBA Office Rent	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	3,600.00	3,600.00	100%	
SBA Insurance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,200.00	0%	
SBA Renters Insurance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	987.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	987.00	0.00	N/A	
Telephone & Internet	125.50	125.52	125.52	125.52	125.11	125.11	125.11	125.48	125.48	125.48	126.06	125.81	1,505.70	1,600.00	94%	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>524.91</b>	<b>456.85</b>	<b>456.37</b>	<b>1,148.13</b>	<b>1,179.15</b>	<b>587.79</b>	<b>678.61</b>	<b>454.87</b>	<b>1,630.09</b>	<b>506.12</b>	<b>475.82</b>	<b>529.18</b>	<b>8,627.89</b>	<b>\$9,550.00</b>	<b>90%</b>	
<b>Other</b>																
Associational Annuals	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	N/A
Annual Meeting	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,400.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,400.00	1,500.00	93%	
Eagle Eyre	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	N/A
Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	203.46	0.00	1,500.00	0.00	0.00	1,703.46	100.00	1703%	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,400.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>203.46</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,500.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>3,103.46</b>	<b>\$1,600.00</b>	<b>194%</b>	

# Around the Association

## Strawberry Baptist Association

- \*Looking at the 2024 Financial Report, the SBA has awarded \$23,800 in *Mission Grants* this past year, enabling 13 missionaries to be “**On-Mission**” for Jesus, sharing the Gospel around the world.
- \*The SBA also sent \$1,500 in *Disaster Relief Aid* to 3 different Organizations in VA and NC after Hurricane Helene struck western VA and NC in 2024, doing widespread damage.

## Bedford

- \*We are winding down from January activities in which our children and youth enjoyed a trip to Chuck E. Cheese and several of our youth attended the “*Edge*” in Black Mountain, NC, for a long weekend of encouraging their Christian lives and leading non-believers to Christ.
- \*Karen May is leading a women’s Bible Study based on Max Lucado’s book, “*What Happens Next*”. The study began on January 23<sup>rd</sup> and is a 6-week study. There is a morning class (10 AM) and an evening class (6:30 PM). If you are interested, please call the church office for details, 540-586-9564.
- \*Our *Mission Groups* meet every month and are open to those who are interested. On the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday, the Morning Circle meets at 10:30 AM. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, the Nannie Bland David Circle meets at 7:00 PM. Both groups meet at the Church. On Tuesdays each week, we have a Missions Outreach Craft Class from 9:30 AM until Noon, which also meets at the Church. Bring your craft, come and enjoy this group. The Faithful Chargers for Christ meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month at The Blue Lady at 9:30 AM.

## Flint Hill

- \*We are collecting 16 oz jars of Peanut Butter for *Food for Kids* during February for our Mission project.
- \*Our Annual *Spaghetti Supper* has been re-scheduled for Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, from 4:00 - 6:00 pm, in the Church Fellowship Hall. You can eat in or get it to go. Donations will be used for Local Mission Projects.

## Quaker

- \*We will be hosting a *First Aid, CPR and AED Training Program* conducted by Virginia State Safety Council, Inc., on Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025. The program will entitle those attending to receive a National Safety Council, Inc., Training Certificate at the conclusion of the training. The location will be Quaker Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, with a one hour lunch break. The training class is limited to the first 15 people that sign up. The cost is \$45.00 per person and includes one participant course guide, certificate of completion, and lunch. It is recommended all nursery workers and youth workers attend. Call Chuck Stebbins at 540-297-5151 or 732-766-5559 to confirm a space, or for more information.

## Trinity

- \*We have formed a “*Sister Church*” Relationship with 1<sup>st</sup> Baptist Church of Damascus, VA. Damascus was hit hard by the Floods from Hurricane Helene, devastating the small town in southwest VA. We have reached out to them, supporting them financially and prayerfully in our *Disaster Relief Effort*.

**\* \* \* \* \* Pastor’s & Church Clerks \* \* \* \* \***

**ACP’S! ACP’S! ACP’S!**

Your **Church ACP’s** (**A**nnual **C**hurch **P**rofiles, a.k.a., **U**niform Church Letters) are due by **March 31<sup>st</sup>**. All participating Southern Baptist Churches are required to fill them out yearly. Only 9 of our SBA Churches have Completed them so far. You can fill them out On-line, at [www.sbcworkspace.com](http://www.sbcworkspace.com), or by hand and mail them to Lifeway, or drop them off at the SBA Office.

Strawberry Baptist Association  
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## February

2/4 Pastor's Conference  
2/14 Valentine's Day