

# The MESSENGER of the Sweetwater Baptist Association

"Churches on Mission Together"  
Celebrating 186 years, 1830 – 2016



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Check Out Our Website: [sweetwaterbaptistassociation.com](http://sweetwaterbaptistassociation.com)

Find us on **Facebook**

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**Volume 5**

**January/February, 2016**

**Number 27**

TENNESSEE BAPTIST CONVENTION presents

## FINANCIAL ISSUES Facing Churches and Ministers Seminar Monday, February 1 10:00 a.m.

Sweetwater Baptist Association  
Office Building, Madisonville

Dr. Gary Rickman, *Tennessee Baptist Convention*  
Financial/Retirement Information for  
Pastors, Staff, Treasurers, Finance Committee  
Chairmen, Financial Secretaries, Church Leaders  
Everyone Welcome!

Sweetwater Baptist Association  
2016 Associational  
Evangelism Conference  
Monday, January 25  
6:45 p.m.

Conference Preacher  
**Dr. Thom S. Rainer**

President, LifeWay Christian Resources  
Author of numerous books including  
*I Am a Church Member*



Special Music by SBA Choir  
under direction of **PHILLIP JOHNSON**  
Associational Music Director

Hosted by...  
**Notchey Creek Baptist Church, Madisonville**  
**EVERYONE INVITED!**

## Sweetwater Baptist Association VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2016 VBS CLINIC

Training for all VBS age levels



### ◆ Tuesday, March 22

Open House 6:30 p.m., Conferences 7:00 p.m.

Watson Chapel Baptist Church, Madisonville

- ★ **Children/Youth** (school age) are invited to be part of the  
**Associational VBS Childrens/Youth Choir**
- ★ Group has only ONE practice scheduled on **Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 p.m.** at Watson Chapel in Madisonville
- ★ Group will perform at the VBS Clinic on Tuesday evening, March 22<sup>nd</sup>
- ★ Children/Youth who attend practice and participate in the Clinic performance will receive free VBS *Submerged* t-shirt at the VBS Clinic on March 22<sup>nd</sup>

LifeWay's 2016 Vacation Bible School Sampler Kits are available at the Sweetwater Baptist Association Office. Please call the SBA Office at 442-6604 to reserve your kit or stop by to pick up a kit for your church.

## Sweetwater Baptist Association Family of Churches Welcomes

### Pastor Kevin Kiser

Wife Cindy, and children,  
Kristyn, Cameryn and Gab

### Shady Grove Baptist Church



Our prayers are with this dear pastor, his family and congregation as they work to share Jesus in this community.

## Sweetwater Baptist Association Executive Board Meeting

Monday, April 18, 7:00 p.m.

SBA Office Building, Madisonville



According to the SBA Constitution and Bylaws, Article VIII: All Pastors, Associational Council (SBA Officers and Committee Chairman) and one elected Executive Board Member from each participating church are entitled to participate in the business of the Executive Board Meetings.

## 2016 MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

- Haiti Mission Project...Early March (date TBA), Construction
- RAM (Remote Area Medical)...April 23-24, Sequoyah High School
- Guatemala Mission Project...June 21-28, Youth Projects
- Guatemala Mission Project...Late September (date TBA), Adult Evangelism Project

Please contact the SBA Office at 442-6604 for additional information or applications regarding these mission opportunities.

# Director of Missions



Grace is being His!  
Thank You Father for GRACE.

---Tony Rutherford

**OH Grace, Where Art Thou?** Several years ago, I came across a sermon titled, "Grace is not a five-foot-two, blue-eyed blond." To say the least, the title caught my attention. The essence of the presentation was that grace is not always, what we think. However, most of the readers of this article will understand grace as an action of God toward undeserving sinners. We may not fully understand the impact of Christ's action on the cross; we do however appreciate the tremendous change it brings in our lives. In these terms, grace is an intentional, deliberate, premediated thought of our heavenly Father.

Grace is also an attribute of Christianity. Jesus clearly sets the example of the loving actions of a Holy God. Countless illustrations are contained in the Scriptures from the woman caught in adultery to the thief on the cross. Neither deserved to experience the greatest gift of all, forgiveness. Yet, Jesus never refused the opportunity to convert an embarrassing situation into a glorious encounter. This unique grace is what the church is to demonstrate to a lost and dying world. In November, the Sweetwater Baptist Association collected approximately 450 bags of groceries in the "Thanksgiving Meal-in-a-Bag" program, which fed over 1,200 people. Approximately 150 or more additional bags were delivered by our churches. Grace was seen in the eyes of many who received the food, but it was also evident in those who distributed the much-needed nourishment.

Grace is also the unlimited compassion of a Christian heart. Peter asked Jesus a question in Matthew 18:21, "How often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Till seven times?" Jesus' response was "I say not unto thee, until seven times but, seventy times seven." It is the nature of a child of God to forgive as the Father has forgiven us. In my life situation, I know I am not infallible or inerrant, as are the Scriptures and the grace of my Father. For me, the need of forgiveness is and will always be a necessity. I recall that Jesus taught in the Sermon on the Mount that our forgiveness is based on our ability to forgive others. If not, we are measured by the same degree that we hold others. In forgiveness, we find the grace that is often missing.

Grace will be evident at this year's Evangelism Conference. Dr. Thom Rainer will be our guest speaker. He is the President of Lifeway and the author of several books. Three of his recent books have gained recommendations: "I am a Church Member," "Autopsy of a Deceased Church," and "I Will." Please prepare for this conference by prayer, encouraging others to attend and arriving early on January 25, 2016 at Notchey Creek Baptist Church.

In fact, we pray that everything accomplished through the Association in 2016 is bathed in prayer and conducted in grace. Oh Grace, where art thou? Generated at the throne of God and lodged deep in the heart of God's children.

- Oh Grace, where art thou?*
- Grace is at the foot of the cross.*
- Grace is in the restoration of a fallen saint.*
- Grace is in the eyes of a loving Father*
- Grace is hands of those who serve.*
- Grace is cooperating.*
- Grace is holding the hurting.*

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING:** The Executive Board of the Sweetwater Baptist Association will meet on April 18<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Baptist Building in Madisonville. Upcoming items to be presented at the April Executive Board Meeting include:

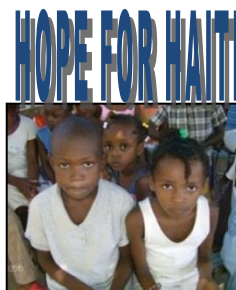


- Reports from Director of Missions, Officers and Committee Chairmen
- Missions Committee has received petition request for membership from the following churches:

- (1) Union Grove, Niota (Steve Teague serves as Pastor)
- (2) Union McMinn, Niota (Doug Alexander serves as Pastor)

Petition request for these Churches will be presented to members of Executive Board. All policies and procedures for petitioning Sweetwater Baptist Association for membership has been met by Union Grove and Union McMinn.

**HOPE FOR HAITI:** Our work at the church/school building in Haiti is near completion. In March of this year, an electrical/construction team will travel to Haiti to install ceiling fans and finish small projects at the church/school. Please contact the Sweetwater Baptist Association Office immediately, if you would like to be part of this upcoming mission project. Mission volunteers must have a valid passport and any required vaccinations from doctor or health department.



In addition to the team of workers from our Association of Churches, leadership from another Association will be traveling with us as part of a vision team to examine the ongoing work at the school and orphanage. Since we are concluding our partnership, it is our prayer that other Associations will step up to provide the needs at the orphanage and continue to share the love of Christ in the country of Haiti.



Our churches have generously provided items needed for the orphanage and funds to supply food, shelter and schooling for the children. In addition, our churches have provided funding for construction, as well as numerous mission teams to assist in the building

of the church/school project. Thank you for your continued support. We are so thankful for the way God has led our churches to respond to the great need in the country of Haiti. The following is a list of gifts that we have received for the Haiti ministry project for October 1, 2015 through December 23, 2015.

**HOPE FOR HAITI FUND-October 1, 2015 - December 23, 2015**

Altoona Baptist Church .....	1000.00
Fairview Baptist Tabernacle Church .....	480.00
Island Creek Baptist Church .....	240.00
Reed Springs Baptist Church .....	160.00
South Madisonville Baptist Church .....	240.00
Sweetwater, First Baptist Church .....	270.00
Vonore Baptist Church .....	480.00
Williamsburg Baptist Church .....	190.80
Bettendorf (Iowa), First Baptist Church.....	400.00
Tony and Darnell Rutherford.....	300.00

**UPDATE ON UNION HALL:** During the 2015 Annual Meeting, Messengers voted to bring Union Hall under the supervision of the Association; and adopted a working agreement between the Association and the Church. One of the stipulations of the agreement was for the Association to seek out a Mother Church to work alongside Union Hall to assist with training church leaders and discipleship of the church. We are pleased to share with you that Vonore Baptist Church has agreed to serve as the Mother Church. Vonore has enlisted 3 of their families to begin attending and serving at Union Hall. As of January 10<sup>th</sup>, Gabe Brannon will serve as Interim Pastor, Keith Bookout and Gary Kirkland will serve as deacons. Please continue to keep Union Hall in your prayers and pray for both congregations as they work together to reach the lost.



(Information taken from Annie Armstrong Planning Guide for Pastors and Mission Leaders and on-line at [anniearmstrong.com](http://anniearmstrong.com).)

**WMU Quarterly Meeting**  
**Lakeside Baptist Church, Madisonville**  
 Monday evening, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 7:00 p.m.  
**Everyone Welcome!**



**WMU and LADIES MINISTRY:**

Thank you Pastor Johnny Carr and Fairview Baptist Tabernacle for hosting the WMU Expo. Thank you to everyone that participated in the Expo by setting up display booths of the various mission focus at your church. A special thank you to our guest speakers and missionaries, Carolyn Outland and Ann Davenport. The Missions Expo was a wonderful opportunity to see and learn about missions first-hand.

**SBA, WMU/Ladies Ministry News**



**Macy Small, M.A.**  
 112 Key Kile Road  
 Sweetwater, TN 37874  
 865.414.3269  
[www.fairviewfamily.org](http://www.fairviewfamily.org)

In the UPPER Room, Jesus gave His followers instructions, prayer, and the promise of a Counselor (*John 13-17*). Also in the UPPER Room Jesus' followers were filled with power and renewed hope (*Acts 1-2*).

The UPPER Room Christian Counseling Center is a place today to find Jesus' instructions, promises, and power for your struggle. Jesus talks about the struggles that His people would have here on earth, yet He promises to be with us, to guide us, and to give us peace. Call The UPPER Room today to speak to a counselor about finding God's answers for you or your loved one.

*"Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God, believe also in me."*  
 John 14: 1 **Macy Small, M.A.,**  
*The Upper Room Christian Counseling*

**Services include....**

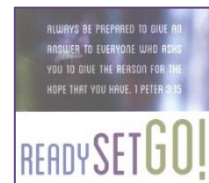
- *Children, Teen, & Family Counseling*
- *Premarital & Marriage Counseling*
- *Divorce & Brief Recovery*
- *Individual sessions for stress, addictions, anger, self-esteem, & other personal struggles*
- *Classes & workshops*

Birthday cakes for East Tennessee Healthcare are to be provided by the WMU as follows:

January .....Vonore	February.....Rocky Springs
March.....New Providence	April.....Altoona
May.....Island Creek	June.....Madisonville First

May we have a greater desire for missions in 2016. . *Love in Christ, Charlotte Hollinghead, Associational WMU/Ladies Ministry Director*

**MISSIONS GET-TOGETHER AND CONNECTION 2016:** April 8-10 is *Missions Get Together and Connection* in Gatlinburg. Registration is now available online at [www.tnbaptist.org](http://www.tnbaptist.org). The cost is \$60.00 per person, if postmarked by March 21<sup>st</sup>. Registration fee is \$70.00 per person (March 22-April 1) and \$75.00 per person at the door.



**GUATEMALA MISSION PROJECT:** Recently the Tennessee Baptist Convention and Guatemala Baptist Convention confirmed plans for Sweetwater Baptist Association mission projects in Guatemala for 2016.

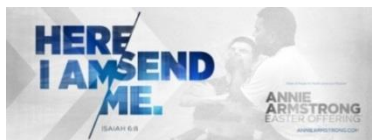


Projects have now been approved for June 21-28 for Bethlehem, Notchey Creek and Vonore. Tentative plans call for youth to serve on these mission teams, in addition to adult volunteers. Mission volunteers will continue ministry work in the same locations of Guatemala where work was begun by teams in 2015. Bethlehem has indicated that nurses will be needed to serve on the mission project in June to help distribute vitamins and participate in medical clinics.

An adult evangelism project has also been approved for late September/early October (the date for this project is still flexible due to purchase of airline tickets.) Please contact the Sweetwater Baptist Association if you or your church is interested in serving on a revival mission team in Guatemala in 2016. Missionary Garry Eudy shared that the Pacific Coast area is one of the largest regions of Guatemala, so there is potential for more of our churches to work in other churches in this region of Guatemala.

Mission volunteers must have a valid passport and any required vaccinations from their doctor or health department. The Tennessee Baptist Convention requires all participants to attend an orientation meeting, as well as More-Life, cross-cultural, security, travel safety, and child protection training. Much of the training is available online or at the SBA Office.

**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS and ANNIE ARMSTRONG EASTER OFFERING:**



March 6-13 is the suggested date for the Week of Prayer for *Here I Am/Send Me* and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. The reason we give to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering is to support the efforts of missionaries in North America to push back lostness in the United States and Canada.

The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering is the primary funding for the North American Mission Board's *Send North America* strategy. One hundred percent of gifts given to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering is used to support Southern Baptist missionaries serving in the United States and Canada.

There is an estimated 260 million lost people in the United States and Canada; that is three of four people. Through your gifts to the Cooperative Program and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, you are helping to spread the gospel in North America. Plan now for you and your church to be part of *Here I Am/Send Me*, to share the love of Jesus so others in the United States and Canada may come to know Him.

**GIRL'S DAY OUT:** This year's *Girl's Day Out*, will be held on **Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup>** at **Chestua Baptist Church in Madisonville**. This event is a fun-filled day for all girls ages 5-12. The theme for this year is "*I am a Princess, because my Father is the King.*"



We will hear from missionaries who have served at home and around our world. There will also be a time of music and entertainment and conferences for the girls to enjoy. Registration is required since lunch will be served. Please watch for additional details and information!

**Girl's Day Out - For All Girls, Ages 5-12**  
**Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am – 3:00 pm**  
**Chestua Baptist Church, Madisonville**

*I am a*  
  
*Because my Father is the King*



**YOUTH COMMITTEE:** I'm excited to serve as Chairman of the Youth Committee for 2016. As chairman, I have been asked to share something in each newsletter. As I began to pray about this article, God laid it upon my heart to allow one of the youth from my church (who is also my daughter) to share how important Youth Reach is to her. --Casey King, *Chairman*

*As a pastor's daughter, I have been to many churches and been involved in many youth groups. I've also been on many church trips that involve churches from anywhere and everywhere. Outside of Trinity, I've never attended a church that is part of an association that puts on a big youth event just for their churches. So I think it's cool that the Sweetwater Baptist Association has Youth Reach for us every year. Out of all the church trips I've taken, I can honestly say that Youth Reach is my favorite. Every year I feel like our youth group grows closer together, but more importantly, I feel like we grow closer to God. Each year, everything about Youth Reach touches me, from the skits, the band, and the speaker. I'm super excited to hear Shawn McBride again this year. He truly touched my heart last time he came and spoke. I am also looking forward to hearing Inky Johnson share his testimony. Hearing Inky at Youth Reach will make the 4<sup>th</sup> time I've heard him speak, and I still get excited every time I know I am going to get listen to him again; I could probably listen to his testimony every day and it would never become old to me. Not to forget about the band. Life Wide Open puts on an amazing performance every year and just brings everyone together for worship. I am really looking forward to Youth Reach 2016. Sidney King*

**Other items to note for students and youth workers:**

**SBA Scholarship:** Applications due March 1<sup>st</sup> and can be picked up at the associational office or downloaded at [www.sweetwaterbaptistassociation.com](http://www.sweetwaterbaptistassociation.com)



**Tennessee Baptist Foundation Scholarship:** Visit [www.tbfoundation.org](http://www.tbfoundation.org)

**CONCLAVE, 2016:**  
 January 28-30, 2016, Chattanooga, TN  
 Register now at [www.ymconclave.org](http://www.ymconclave.org)

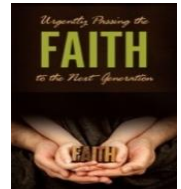


Tennessee Baptist Convention *presents*  
**2016 Youth Evangelism Conference**  
 NASHVILLE Municipal Auditorium  
**March 11-12**  
 Additional information and register online at [YEECTN.org](http://YEECTN.org)



**Youth Reach – July 15-16**  
 Smoky Mountain Convention Center, Pigeon Forge  
 Program: Shawn McBride,  
 Life Wide Open, and Inky Johnson  
**Registration Packets will be mailed out soon**

Tennessee Baptist Convention *presents*  
**Bivocational Ministers & Wives Retreat**  
**January 28-30**  
 Cost \$225 per couple (includes hotel, meals, breaks)  
 Music Road Hotel/Convention Center  
 Pigeon Forge, Tennessee  
 Register online at [tnbaptist.org](http://tnbaptist.org)



**Remote Area Medical Clinic**  
**April 23-24, 2016**  
**Sequoyah High School, Madisonville**

- Groups needed for RAM setup
- Churches needed to serve meals for volunteers
- Groups needed to provide snacks for patients

**Please contact the Sweetwater Baptist Association Office at 442-6604 for additional information and/or to volunteer to serve.**

**DISASTER RELIEF:** The Tennessee Baptist Convention has now activated the online training for *Recertification – Introduction to Disaster Relief*. This course is to be repeated every 3 years, regardless of callouts. When you take the course, remember to download the background form and send it in with your \$36.00 to Disaster Relief, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024. Make checks payable to: Tennessee Baptist Convention.



In addition to the **Recertification – Introduction to Disaster Relief Class, Chainsaw Safety** and **Shower/Laundry** is also available to take online. **These online courses are for existing volunteers only.**

New volunteers will need to take the full *Introduction to Disaster Relief* in person at one of our trainings across the state in addition to the specialized training required to be fully credentialed. Details can be found at [www.tndisasterrelief.org](http://www.tndisasterrelief.org) - training opportunities. For additional information, please contact the Tennessee Baptist Convention at 1-800-558-2090 or the following link will take you to the online training site <http://onlinedisasterrelieftraining.com>

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL, 2016:** It is a good time now to plan for Vacation Bible School, 2016. We want to help you get started, so please mark your calendars with the following dates!



The **Associational Vacation Bible School Clinic** will be held on **Tuesday evening, March 22<sup>nd</sup>**. An Open House will begin at 6:30 p.m. and Conferences at 7:00 p.m. The **VBS Clinic** will be hosted by **Watson Chapel Baptist Church** in **Madisonville**, so please be sure and mark your calendar! All leaders, teachers, and helpers are encouraged to attend.

Just a reminder...Children and Youth are invited to be part of the Associational VBS Childrens/Youth Choir. This group has only ONE practice scheduled. The practice will be on **Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup>**, at 2:00 p.m. at Watson Chapel in Madisonville. The group will perform at the VBS Clinic on Tuesday evening, March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Children and Youth who attend practice and participate in the Clinic performance will receive a free VBS *Submerged* t-shirt at the VBS Clinic on March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

If your church does not have Vacation Bible School, we encourage you to prayerfully reconsider. Please remember that we have the Link-up Plan, where churches recycle the current LifeWay theme material and decorations here at the Sweetwater Baptist Association office during the summer. In addition, we want to help all churches as you plan, promote, and prepare for Vacation Bible School. If your church needs any assistance with VBS for 2016, please feel free to contact the SBA Office at 442-6604 for more information. We look forward to seeing you at the **VBS Clinic on March 22<sup>nd</sup>**.

**SBA – 2016 VBS Schedule of Events**

- **Sunday, March 20, 2:00 p.m.**, Watson Chapel, Madisonville  
**Children/Youth Choir Practice for VBS Clinic**
- **Tuesday, March 22, 6:30 p.m.** Watson Chapel, Madisonville  
**Open House, 7:00 p.m. VBS Conferences**



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL SAMPLER KITS:**

LifeWay's 2016 VBS Sampler Kits, *Submerged...Finding Truth Below the Surface* are now available at the Sweetwater Baptist Association Office. Please call the SBA Office at 442-6604 to reserve your kit.

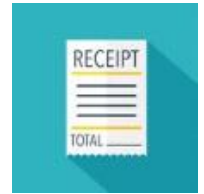
The 2016 theme is based on Psalm 139:23-24 and the motto is "Jesus sees, Jesus knows, Jesus saves." *Submerged* takes your kids on a fun-filled week to submerge themselves in God's Word. They discover that Jesus did not see just what was on the outside of people; He looked down deep on the inside. So, grab your flippers and dive in to find truths below the surface! Biblical content includes: Jesus saw Zacchaeus; Jesus saw the woman at the well; Jesus saw Nicodemus; Jesus saw a blind man; Jesus saw the children. .

In the next few weeks, we will have all materials, t-shirts, supplies and resources available at the Association office, as well. We will be happy to help you with your 2016 order for materials and supplies, or even a team of VBS workers. We are praying for our churches and for your Vacation Bible Schools.

LifeWay's 2016 VBS Sampler Kits are available at the SBA Office. Please call 442-6604 to reserve your kit or stop by the SBA Office to pick up a kit for your church.

**REMINDER FOR CHURCH TREASURERS:**

The IRS requires charitable organizations (including churches) to provide written receipts for individual donations of \$250.00 or more. For amounts less than \$250.00, a written receipt is not required. However, it is recommended that churches provide an annual itemized statement to each contributor, regardless of the amount of donation. The statement should cover the January-December tax year and given to the contributor in a timely manner, for use in filing income tax returns. This written receipt should include the following information:



- 1) Name and address of the church;
- 2) Date and amount of each donation;
- 3) Statement that no goods or services were given to individual making donation.

Tennessee Baptist Convention presents  
**FINANCIAL ISSUES FACING CHURCHES and MINISTERS \$\$\$ SEMINAR \$\$\$**  
**February 1, 2016, 10:00 a.m.**  
 Sweetwater Baptist Association  
 696 Anderson Street, Madisonville, 423-442-6604



Those encouraged to attend are treasurers, administrative church employees, budget, finance or personnel committees, ministers, church staff, church secretaries, or interested lay leaders.

**TOPICS INCLUDE:**

- ✓ Updated Reporting Requirements/Federal Reporting
- ✓ IRS Forms and Publications – W2 and 1099 – Form 944
- ✓ Income—Salary, Housing
- ✓ Benefits—Insurance, Retirement
- ✓ Business Expense—Travel, Telephone, Other Reimbursements
- ✓ Charitable Contributions: Designated Giving-Non-cash Gifts

Seminar available for any person interested in church finance. No cost; no registration required. Seminar will be led by Dr. Gary Rickman, TBC. This seminar will save your church and minister TIME, MONEY and HASSLES!

**TAX FORMS AVAILABLE:**

The Sweetwater Baptist Association Office has a supply of carbonless forms W2, W3, 1099 and 1096. These are available to our churches and are on a first-come, first-serve basis. Please stop by the SBA Office to pick up the forms that are needed for your church.



**CHURCH GIFTS:**

We are so thankful to the churches for the gifts you have shared with our office. These gifts support the various budget opportunities provided by the Sweetwater Baptist Association. Please note, the report listed in this newsletter reflects only church gifts received through December 23, 2015. Gifts received after December 23rd will appear in the next printed SBA Church Gift Report.



Please review this information, and contact our office if you should have any questions. We thank you again for your support of the budget ministries of the Association.

**SBA Church Gifts: October 1-December 23, 2015**

Church/Mission	October	November	December	Total
411 Chapel	0.00	750.00	0.00	750.00
Altoona	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Antioch	50.00	25.00	0.00	75.00
Beaty's Chapel	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bethlehem	1002.00	713.00	1138.00	2853.00
Big Creek	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Calvary	77.96	80.41	94.00	252.37
Cane Creek	110.00	110.00	110.00	330.00
Cedar Fork	384.04	735.26	631.37	1750.67
Cedar Valley	552.51	0.00	1353.74	1906.25
Chestua	100.00	100.00	100.00	300.00
Christianburg	0.00	377.52	0.00	377.52
Citico	66.52	60.30	48.75	175.57
Clifton	50.00	0.00	25.00	75.00
Community	60.36	65.31	59.22	184.89
Compromise	50.00	50.00	50.00	150.00
Conasauga	200.00	0.00	100.00	300.00
Concord	333.96	0.00	0.00	333.96
Druid Hills	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ebenezer	79.00	76.00	0.00	155.00
Fairview	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fairview Tabernacle	1045.24	1067.78	1130.84	3243.86
Fellowship	165.00	156.50	125.00	446.50
Glenlock	200.00	800.00	0.00	1000.00
Gregory's Chapel	100.00	100.00	100.00	300.00
Hilltop	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hopewell Springs	141.00	126.00	181.00	448.00
Howards Chapel	757.33	0.00	0.00	757.33
Island Creek	200.00	200.00	200.00	600.00
Lakeside	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Long Ridge	1000.00	0.00	0.00	1000.00
Lower Chilhowee	200.00	0.00	0.00	200.00
Macedonia	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
Madisonville, First	366.67	466.67	416.67	1250.01
Maple Springs	500.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
Miller's Chapel	100.00	100.00	100.00	300.00
Mt. Calvary	107.00	100.68	124.14	331.82
Mt. Isabella	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
Mt. Zion	392.05	269.23	453.66	1114.94
Murray's	2960.34	0.00	0.00	2960.34
New Bethany	290.75	241.79	445.28	977.82
New Macedonia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
New Providence	513.00	380.00	325.00	1218.00
North Sweetwater	307.00	75.00	411.64	382.00
Notchey Creek	411.64	411.64	100.00	1234.92
Oakland	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
Oak Grove	215.11	309.86	0.00	524.97
Old Pond Hill	0.00	0.00	90.00	90.00
Old Sweetwater	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Paint Rock	110.00	110.00	110.00	330.00
Piney Grove	0.00	0.00	300.00	300.00
Poplar Bluff	148.91	159.43	172.68	481.02
Reed Springs	735.00	243.88	0.00	978.88
Rocky Springs	840.00	0.00	0.00	840.00
Rural Vale	164.38	123.96	199.66	488.00
Shady Grove	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Shelton Grove	200.00	173.79	0.00	373.79
Shoal Creek	0.00	193.00	0.00	193.00
South Madisonville	100.00	100.00	100.00	300.00
Sweetwater, First	350.00	350.00	350.00	1050.00
Tellico	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tellico Plains, First	595.00	537.00	684.00	1816.00
Tevis Springs	178.95	53.30	0.00	232.25
Towee Falls	150.00	150.00	150.00	450.00
Trinity	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Unicoi	84.26	0.00	0.00	84.26
Union Grove-Niota	0.00	0.00	120.00	120.00
Union Hall	0.00	52.32	55.00	107.32
Union McMinn-Niota	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Unity	400.00	0.00	0.00	400.00
Upper Shady Grove	50.00	50.00	50.00	150.00
Vonore	1253.92	1177.24	1659.00	4090.16
Walnut Grove	174.29	221.16	244.30	639.75
Watson Chapel	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Westside	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Williamsburg	71.80	0.00	119.00	190.80

TBC	782.00	782.00	782.00	2346.00
Misc AM	50.00	0.00	0.00	50.00
Misc Interest	23.50	24.92	25.12	73.54
Totals	19,750.49	12,449.95	13,034.07	45,234.51

**YOUTH PASTOR OPPORTUNITY, AT FBC TELLICO:**

First Baptist Church of Tellico Plains has an opening for a bi-vocational, salaried, Youth Pastor. We are looking for a passionate, energetic, spirit-led Christian with a calling to minister to youth Grades 7-12. Responsibilities include (but not limited to) leading and organizing effective youth programs, implementing fellowship, worship, Biblical teaching, discipleship, and evangelism, as well as ministry and mission opportunities. If more information is needed, contact Rev. Richard Parker, at revrap@gmail.com. Resumes may be submitted to the following address: FBC of Tellico Plains, Attn: Youth Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 118, Tellico Plains, TN 37385.



**TELLICO (Ballplay):**

Director of Missions, Tony Rutherford presents Pastor Andy Nichols with a plaque from the Tennessee Baptist Convention, recognizing the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the church. We praise God for this wonderful pastor and congregation.



**LONG RIDGE:** *The Hymnsmen Quartet* will be in concert Sunday morning, January 17 at 11:00 a.m. Everyone is invited to join us.

**CONASAUGA:** *The Liberty Boys* will be singing at Conasauga on Sunday evening, January 31 at 6:00 p.m. Finger foods will be served following the service in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited to join us.



**SHOAL CREEK:** We ended 2015 with our first baptism in the new baptistery. Six were baptized; and five joining our church family. We are very excited to see what the LORD has in store for this New Year. Our Food Pantry is open the 3rd Saturday of each month from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm. May God Bless you all in all you do to glorify Him.

**WATSON CHAPEL:** A Christian Rap Concert will be held at Watson Chapel on Saturday, February 20th at 7:00 pm. Admission is free. Trumog and Kingdom Kid and others will be performing. Contact Chad Wilburn, Youth Pastor at Watson Chapel, for more info at 423-536-8770. Everyone welcome.





**WESTSIDE:** We are planning a community-wide evangelism event on May 21<sup>st</sup> at Hiwassee College. **PRAISE DAY 2016** will feature both local and nationally recognized Christian music

artists, along with various speakers throughout the day. Currently, our church along with Watson Chapel, are organizing this event. However, we would like for many churches to join with us in the planning, promoting and funding of **PRAISE DAY 2016**. Local church praise teams, drama teams, youth groups, etc. will also be invited to perform. There are lots of ways other churches can be involved. If you or your church is interested in helping in any way, please contact Pastor Dwight Torbett at 423-519-3305.

**BEST WISHES TO LON SHOOPMAN:**

We offer congratulations to Dr. Lon Shoopman upon his retirement. Lon has served as the pastor of First Baptist Church, Madisonville for 41 years. The church held a special celebration service for him on January 10, 2016. Please join with us in prayer for Brother Lon and his family as they begin this new chapter in their life. Also, please keep in your prayers the wonderful congregation at First Baptist as they begin the process of searching out the new pastor God has for them.



*Tim Lovelace*

**PASTORS & WIVES CHRISTMAS BANQUET:**

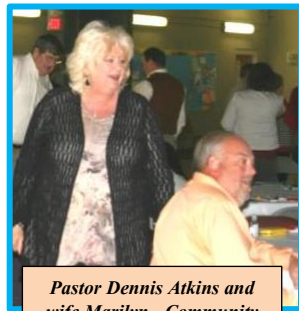
Everyone enjoyed a great time of fellowship at the 2015 Christmas Banquet. Many thanks to all those who made this a wonderful evening: Vonore Baptist Church and Pastor Doug Sager for hosting, Barbara Bond and crew for a delicious catered meal; Pastor Johnny Carr for leading us in Christmas carols; Pastor Jim Swabe for sharing the Christmas reading; and Pastor Ronnie Best for leading the benediction prayer. The guest entertainment was Southern Gospel artist, Tim Lovelace. Tim is a very talented musician and comedian. Most of all we are thankful for the birth of our wonderful Savior.



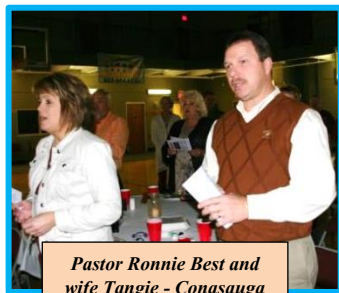
*Pastor Derek McCosh and wife Christy - Fellowship*



*Pastor Bob Kirkland and wife Anna Sue - Upper Shady Grove*



*Pastor Dennis Atkins and wife Marilyn - Community*



*Pastor Ronnie Best and wife Tangie - Conasauga*



*Pastor Doug Sager - Vonore  
Pastor Jeremy McNally and wife Brandi - Island Creek*

**Young Adult Conference**  
(for ages 18-35)  
Guest Speaker: Brett McNew, FBC Tullahoma TN  
Music: FBC Tellico Praise Band  
February 22-24 - 7:00 pm  
Tellico Plains, First Baptist Church  
506 Scott Street - Tellico Plains

**SURRENDER**  
TURN TOMORROW INTO TODAY

**GOSPEL SINGING:** March 19<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm, Lenoir City High School. Featuring Jeff & Sheri Easter, Wilburn & Wilburn and LakeSide. Tickets are \$20.00. All church groups, Senior groups and Sunday School classes are invited. Call 423-420-9408 for more information.

*Lake Side* Presents  
**Singing in the Valley**  
Lenoir City High School Auditorium  
1485 Old Hwy. 95 • Lenoir City, TN  
March 19th, 2016 @ 6:30 PM (EST)

Featuring  
**Jeff & Sheri Easter,  
Wilburn & Wilburn  
and Lakeside**

Great Gospel Singing

WILBURN  
WILBURN

Tickets \$20.00 Per Person 12 and Under Free • Info 423.420.9408 • [www.lakesidegospel.com](http://www.lakesidegospel.com)

# Sweetwater Baptist Association

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Madisonville, TN 37354

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## ASSOCIATIONAL OFFICERS

<b>MODERATOR</b> David Chambers	<b>VICE MODERATOR</b> Dwight Torbett	<b>Associational Council</b> Officers & Committee Chairmen
Pastor Advisor Frank Hicks	Church Growth/Leadership Director Frank Crawford	Mission Committee Gerald Atkins, Chairman
Disaster Relief Director Tony Curtis	Historian Co-Directors Kay James & Angie Johnson	Media Ministry Director Betty Wolfe
Men's Ministry Director	Music Director Phillip Johnson	Prayer Ministry Director Svitlana Self
RA Director Phil Roy	WMU Director Charlotte Hollinghead	Vacation Bible School Directors Brian and Kim Williamson
Preschool/Mission Friends Director Savonna Chambers	Girls/GA Director Michelle Spradin	Acteens Director Connie Gardner
Annuity Committee Director of Missions	Bivocational Pastors Council SBA Office Staff	Christian Life Committee David Lane, Chairman
Committee on Nominations Eddie McDaniel, Chairman	Constitution Committee Kay James, Chairperson	Evangelism Committee Steven McDonald, Chairman
Finance Committee Barry Self, Chairman	Personnel Committee Diane Wall, Chairperson	Program Committee Lewis Jones, Chairman
Scholarship Committee Betty Wolfe, Chairperson	Trustees Carl "Buddy" Richesin, Chairman	Youth Council Casey King, Chairman

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE ASSOCIATION

### Welcome New Pastors

Kevin Kiser .....Shady Grove

### Director of Mission Visits:

Ebenezer, Old Pond Hill, Union Hall, Conasauga, Oakland, Mt. Isabella, Paint Rock, Fairview Tabernacle, New Providence, Tellico (Ballplay), Trinity, Piney Grove, Reed Springs

### Please pray for our churches without pastors:

Rural Vale, Union Hall



## Upcoming Events/News

“God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love.” –2 Timothy 1:7

January 25 ..... Evangelism Conference, Notchey Creek, 6:45 p.m.  
January 29 ..... TBC Bivocational Pastor/Wife Retreat, Pigeon Forge  
February 1 ..... Financial Issues Seminar, SBA Office, 10:00 a.m.  
February 1 ..... WMU Quarterly Meeting, Lakeside, 7:00 p.m.  
February 14 ..... Valentine's Day

March 1 ..... SBA High Scholarship Applications due  
March ..... Haiti Mission Project (date TBA)  
March 6 ..... Week of Prayer for North American Missions and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering  
March 11-12 ... YEC, Nashville Municipal Center  
March 13 ..... Daylight Savings Time Begins  
March 14 ..... Scholarship Committee Meeting, SBA Office, 6:30 p.m.  
March 20 ..... VBS Kids Choir Practice, Watson Chapel, 2:00 p.m.  
March 22 ..... VBS Clinic, Watson Chapel,  
6:30 p.m. Open House, 7:00 p.m. Conferences  
March 25 ..... Good Friday  
March 27 ..... Easter

Information for the next newsletter must be received by  
**March 10<sup>th</sup>.**



### SWEETWATER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

## 2016 High School Scholarship Applications

Completed Applications DUE March 1st



### SBA Pastor's Conference Monday Mornings, 10:00 a.m. at SBA Office

January 18	
January 25	No Pastor's Conference
February 1	Financial Issues Seminar
February 8	February 15
February 22	February 29
March 7	March 14
March 21	March 28 No Pastor's Conference

2016 SBA Pastor's Conference  
President Dennis Ellis, Vice-President Bill Wilson

### East TN Healthcare, WMU Birthday Cake

<b>January</b>	Vonore	<b>February</b>	Rocky Springs
<b>March</b>	New Providence	<b>April</b>	Altoona
<b>May</b>	Island Creek	<b>June</b>	Madisonville, First

Check Out Our Website

[www.sweetwaterbaptistassociation.com](http://www.sweetwaterbaptistassociation.com)

Visit us on Facebook

### SBA Office Hours

Monday-Thursday  
8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.