

# The MESSENGER of the Sweetwater Baptist Association

*"Churches on Mission Together"*  
Celebrating 191 years, 1830 – 2021

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Check Out Our Website: [sweetwaterbaptistassociation.com](http://sweetwaterbaptistassociation.com)  
Find us on **Facebook**

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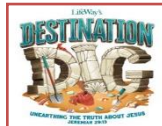
Resident Interpreter Volunteer

**Volume 10**

**January/February, 2021**

**Number 51**

Sweetwater Baptist Association  
**2021 Vacation Bible School Clinic**  
**Monday, April 19, 2021**  
Conference begins at 7:00 p.m.



Hosted by: Rocky Springs Baptist Church, Madisonville  
Training for all VBS age levels

*Destination Dig: Unearthing the Truth About Jesus*  
Motto: *Seek Truth! Find Jesus!* Scripture focus Jeremiah 29:13

The daily content for each session is as follows:

Day 1	Jesus Came as God Promised	Jesus Was Born
Day 2	Jesus Demonstrated God's Power	Jesus Healed a Blind Man
Day 3	Jesus Was Betrayed and Rejected	Jesus Experienced Betrayal & Rejection
Day 4	Jesus Died and Rose Again	Jesus is Alive
Day 5	The Bible is True	Phillip Told the Good News

**Just a Note:** LifeWay's 2021 Vacation Bible School Sampler Kits will soon be available!  
If your church needs any assistance or more information regarding VBS 2021, please feel free to contact the SBA Office at 442-6604.

Sweetwater Baptist Association  
**Offerings for Isaiah 117 Project**  
(Offerings received as of December 28)



Christianburg.....	500.00
Union McMinn .....	5500.00
SBA Annual Meeting.....	1501.39

When children are taken from their homes, out of concern for their welfare, they are usually brought to the Department of Children's Services Office. Often, these children have nothing with them, and sometimes wait for several hours or days until placement with a foster family. Thus, they are scared and lonely. *Isaiah 117* is a ministry devoted to providing comfort for the children, in what can be a most confusing time in their lives. Monroe and McMinn County are in the process of working together to make available a comfortable space for the children in these counties during this time of need. We are asking our churches to pray for and receive an offering for the *Isaiah 117* project in February, 2021. Please plan now for your church to be part of this worthwhile project.

Sweetwater Baptist Association

### Executive Board Meeting

Monday, April 26, 2021; 7:00 p.m.

Hosted by **North Sweetwater Baptist Church**, Sweetwater

North Sweetwater to host  
Executive Board Meeting

According to SBA Constitution and Bylaws, Executive Board Members are:

- Associational Staff, Associational Officers and Associational Council,
- Pastor/Interim Pastor or in the event the church has no Pastor or Interim Pastor, the Chairman of the Deacon becomes the first Executive Board Member from each church, and
- One elected Executive Board Member from each church.

In accordance with the *Constitution and By-Laws* of the Sweetwater Baptist Association adopted October 21, 2019, *Names of Executive Board members from each church must be submitted to the Sweetwater Baptist Association, Inc. in order for a list of Executive Board Members to be compiled. Visitors will be welcome to attend the business session, but only registered Executive Board members will be allowed to participate in the business session.*

Sweetwater Baptist Association  
Family of Churches Welcomes

**FAIRVIEW** (Tellico)

**Pastor JOHN COLEMAN**  
and wife Glenda



May the Lord bless this pastor and congregation as they work together to share Christ in their community.



**2021 ASSOCIATIONAL  
EVANGELISM RALLY**  
**Monday, January 18<sup>th</sup>**

Join us online!

Featuring: **Dr. Hollie Miller**, Conference Speaker  
Interim Pastor, Fairview Baptist Tabernacle Church, Sweetwater  
Former Pastor, Sevier Heights Baptist Church, Knoxville

**Virtual!**

# Director of Missions



The garland, twinkling lights, and special decorations have all been returned to their boxes and the homemade pies and cakes have all been replaced with post-Christmas diet recipes. Christmas was different this year, but it was still a blessing to worship the birth of our Savior. My family's attention now turns toward Easter, the glorious resurrection of our Lord. The two seasons go together, Christmas happens to allow Easter to complete what God's will is for His creation. Let us not get bogged down in the dreags of winter and COVID-19, instead focus on the promises the resurrection brings. That which was dead is now alive! Even the angels asked, "Why do you look for the living among the dead?"

The Sweetwater Baptist Association is planning "alive" 2021. It may start slowly because of the things that have beset our nation for the last 10 months, however God promises He will not forsake His children and His purpose still rules our heart. There are opportunities to embrace before the Master returns. The world needs Christ more than ever before. The thought weaves through my mind concerning the condition of the church post Covid-19. Estimates have suggested that the average church will lose 60% of its active members. I do not believe it! God has not taken his hand off the church, instead He is pumping new life into the veins of His living, breathing, body. Souls are being saved, homes are being healed, and hopes are being restored.

By the summer of 2021, the population of the United States will have been mostly vaccinated and life will be returning to a new, but workable normal. Therefore, we are now putting into place the possibility of returning to Guatemala, going to Iowa, planning Vacation Bible Schools, and continuing the support of the local church. It is with enthusiasm and anticipation that we welcome 2021. The work in Guatemala has been successful. Over 300 souls have been added to the Kingdom of God annually over the last six years. We trust God to reach that many and more during this year. Wells in Myanmar will be giving forth living water to people that you have helped survive the year of starvation. We will hear of new souls being added to the "Lamb's Book of Life" because God moved on our hearts to give. When people say this past year was a waste, no, it has been a year the soil has been prepared for a great harvest.

Jesus spoke concerning a great harvest after He encountered the woman at the well (John 4). His concern to the disciples is the same concern of our day, "The laborers are few." Pastors and churches let me prayerfully persuade you to earnestly contend with the Father to send REVIVAL to your community. By the fall of the year, launch a rigorous visitation and outreach campaign, contact every home within a mile radius of the church building, seek divine leadership in presenting the gospel in ways that allow the Holy Spirit to bring conviction to our doorsteps, and develop a thirst and hunger for the lost that only God can fill. Brothers, summon a group of God-fearing believers to join you in agonizing with the Father for a passion to preach with a zeal and love that flows only from above.

Please, please do not take me wrong! I am not criticizing anyone's efforts in the past. I only believe that God has brought us through a difficult time to prepare for something great. We hear of peace in the middle east, a falling away in America, yet revival in other parts of the world. I am not a prophet of Old Testament standards. I am only

trusting Jesus' word in the day that I live, and I want us to prepare to rejoice in Him. ---Tony Rutherford

## ASSOCIATIONAL LEADERSHIP/COUNCIL



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL CLINIC, 2021**  
**Monday evening, April 19<sup>th</sup>**  
 Training Conferences begin at 7:00 p.m.  
 Hosted by **Rocky Springs, Madisonville**  
 Everyone invited to attend!

## WMU/LADIES MEETING

**Monday, May 3, 7:00 p.m.**

Fairview Baptist Tabernacle Church

Guest Speaker Andrew Wood

Executive Director HOPE Center, Knoxville

Ladies are asked to bring items for a baby shower to be used in the ongoing ministry at the HOPE Center.



**Due to COVID-19 safeguards and precautions**, please contact the Activities Director at the Madisonville Health & Rehab when it is your time to provide the birthday cake.

Madisonville Health & Rehab – Nursing Home Birthday Cake Schedule

For more information contact Activities Director at 442-3990

<b>January</b>	Vanore	<b>February</b>	Rocky Springs
<b>March</b>	New Providence	<b>April</b>	Oak Grove
<b>May</b>	Concord	<b>June</b>	Madisonville, First

**MISSIONS GET TOGETHER & CONNECTION** virtual version of the event is being offered on March 19-20, 2021. Individuals, friends, families, and groups will be able to participate in this unique experience. Please check Tennessee Baptist Mission Board website at [tnbaptist.org](http://tnbaptist.org) for additional information.

**CHURCH GIFTS:** Total church gifts for October 1<sup>st</sup> through December 28<sup>th</sup> were \$48,139.95, with total budget expenses of \$41,723.87. Please review this information, and contact our office if you should have any questions. We thank you for your support of the budget ministries of the Association.



## SBA Church Gifts: October 1 – December 28, 2020

Church/Mission	Oct. 2020	Nov. 2020	Dec. 2020	Total
411 Chapel	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Antioch	25.00	25.00	25.00	75.00
Beaty's Chapel	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bethlehem	1,020.00	788.50	1,027.00	2,835.50
Big Creek	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Calvary	69.72	82.92	96.00	248.64
Cane Creek	200.00	200.00	200.00	600.00
Cedar Fork	350.07	364.91	482.86	1,197.84
Cedar Valley	628.50	0.00	1,168.92	1,797.42
Christianburg	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Citico	62.85	94.36	77.85	235.06
Clifton	25.00	25.00	0.00	50.00
Community	29.23	105.84	61.68	196.75
Compromise	50.00	50.00	50.00	150.00
Conasauga	200.00	100.00	100.00	400.00
Concord	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Delano	690.43	283.24	291.56	1,265.23
Druid Hill	0.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
Ebenezer	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fairview	0.00	120.00	0.00	120.00
Fairview Tabernacle	1,278.59	1,519.11	1,229.54	4,027.24
Fellowship	300.00	0.00	246.00	546.00
Glenlock	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Gregory's Chapel	100.00	100.00	100.00	300.00
Hopewell Springs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Howards Chapel	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Island Creek	300.00	300.00	0.00	600.00
Lakeside	600.00	0.00	300.00	900.00
Long Ridge	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
Lower Chilhowee	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Macedonia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Madisonville, First	416.67	416.67	416.67	1,250.01
Maple Springs	500.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
Miller's Chapel	100.00	100.00	100.00	300.00
Mt. Calvary	75.72	72.39	96.63	244.74
Mt. Isabella	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mt. Zion	797.86	459.39	552.91	1,810.16
Murray's	1,633.00	0.00	0.00	1,633.00
New Bethany	1,174.82	0.00	358.86	1,533.68
New Macedonia	140.00	140.00	140.00	420.00
New Providence	642.85	508.55	403.05	1,554.45
North Sweetwater	170.96	75.35	107.47	353.78
Notchey Creek	477.20	477.20	477.20	1,431.60
Oak Grove	322.77	444.80	191.45	959.02
Oakland	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
Old Pond Hill	0.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
Old Sweetwater	0.00	0.00	500.00	500.00
Paint Rock	110.00	110.00	110.00	330.00
Piney Grove	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Poplar Bluff	237.20	280.77	232.40	750.37
Reed Springs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Rocky Springs	400.00	400.00	400.00	1,200.00
Rural Vale	441.99	360.27	302.55	1,104.81
Shady Grove	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
Shelton Grove	131.60	144.84	213.18	489.62
Shoal Creek	0.00	285.00	0.00	285.00
South Madisonville	100.00	100.00	100.00	300.00
Sweetwater, First	350.00	350.00	350.00	1,050.00
Tellico	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tellico, First	444.00	424.00	562.00	1,430.00
Tevis Springs	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
Towee Falls	150.00	150.00	150.00	450.00
Trinity	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Union Grove	120.00	120.00	120.00	360.00
Union Hall	0.00	55.00	60.00	115.00
Union McMinn	400.00	400.00	400.00	1,200.00
Unity	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Upper Shady Grove	50.00	50.00	50.00	150.00
Vonore	1,513.74	2,074.60	2,033.71	5,622.05
Walnut Grove	1,096.74	0.00	0.00	1,096.74
Watson Chapel	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Westside	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Williamsburg	80.84	56.67	63.04	200.55
Miscellaneous/TBC	782.00	782.00	782.00	2,346.00
Misc AM	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Misc Interest	48.73	45.57	213.18	124.69
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>19,038.08</b>	<b>14,241.95</b>	<b>14,859.92</b>	<b>48,139.95</b>
	Oct. 2020	Nov. 2020	Dec. 2020	Total

### THANK YOU TO PASTOR DENNIS ATKINS

and his work crew. They completed the work in the downstairs conference area by installing the baseboard trim. This made the area look great!



### YOUTH COMMITTEE:

We are proceeding with plans for Youth Reach 2021...so mark your calendar for July 16-17 and make plans to bring your students to YR! We have a great line-up of guests and will be in the beautiful *Biblical Times Theater* in Pigeon Forge. In addition to the great program, two meals are included with your registration! So, don't miss out on Youth Reach 2021...we can't wait to see you!

**TINY HOUSE UPDATE:** COVID-19 delayed the construction of the Tiny House, but it is now almost complete. The cabinets are being installed, then it will be ready to furnish and then be ready for use. Thank you again, churches, for your generous donations that sponsored the construction of two Tiny Houses to assist with the homeless in our area.



### CHURCH NEWS FROM AROUND THE ASSOCIATION

**BETHLEHEM** desires the prayers of all our Sister churches as we move forward in seeking the man God has prepared to lead His congregation in the Bethlehem Community to even greater ministry as part of His Kingdom work.



We are thankful for the years God granted Pastor Frank Hicks to lead Bethlehem through preaching The Word and spreading The Gospel. We now pray for the next phase of ministry God has purposed for his life and ask you all to join us in this prayer. May God bless Pastor Frank and Barbara!  
-Donna McKee

**POPLAR BLUFF:** Do you play an instrument or want to learn? We would love for you to join us as we gather to worship the third Friday of each month.



*January Gospel Plow:* Jan. 15 @ 6:00 pm

**ORDINATIONS and SPECIAL MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES:** While it's not always possible to make it to each one, our Director of Missions tries to attend as many ordination services and special milestone anniversaries for our churches as possible.



**Kevin Wiseman Deacon Ordination** at Cane Creek. *Kevin Wiseman & Pastor Kenny Taylor in photo on left.*

**New Macedonia** recently



celebrated their *100-Year Anniversary.* Tony presented a keepsake plaque from the *Tennessee Baptist Mission Board* in honor of this milestone.



2020 brought a Pandemic, Political unrest, and all sorts of Problems. Therefore, the verse that we encourage

**MACY SMALL, M.A.**  
865.414.3269  
[www.fairviewfamily.org](http://www.fairviewfamily.org)

people to focus on is Isaiah 26:3. It's imperative to stay focused on HIM so that we can have Peace in these unsettling times.



Many individuals and families are struggling, so thank you for the support and prayers to the Counseling Center. Hundreds of people came to the center in 2020, and there definitely was an increase toward the end of the year after the quarantines and the stress of 2020. If you or a family member or friend are struggling, please don't go at it alone. The Counseling Center offers help for individuals, marriages, and families so call **865.414.3269** for an appointment or more information.

**Sweetwater Baptist Association**  
 696 Anderson Street  
 Madisonville, TN 37354

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**ASSOCIATIONAL OFFICERS, 2020-2021**

<b>MODERATOR</b> LEWIS JONES	<b>VICE MODERATOR</b> MICHAEL McLEMORE	<b>Associational Council</b> Officers & Committee Chairmen
<b>Committee on Nominations</b> Gerald Lynn, Chairman	<b>Children's Director</b> Kendra McDonald	<b>Constitution Committee</b> Wallace Graham, Chairman
<b>Finance Committee</b> Jonas Turpin, Chairman	<b>Disaster Relief Director</b> Jim Jollay	<b>Evangelism Committee</b> Mike Blair, Chairman
<b>Mission Committee</b> Steve Moore, Chairman	<b>Men's Ministry Director</b> Bryan Coffey	<b>Program Committee</b> Dennis Lingerfelt, Chairman
<b>Personnel Committee</b> Macy Small, Chairperson	<b>Music Director</b> Phillip Johnson	<b>Scholarship Committee</b> Amy Lynn Ferguson, Chairperson
<b>Trustees</b> Bill Johnson, Chairman	<b>Pastor Advisor</b> Frank Hicks	<b>Youth Council</b> Cody Dalton, Chairman
<b>WMU/Ladies Director</b> Charlotte Hollinghead	<b>Vacation Bible School Directors</b> Bryan & Kim Williamson	

**NEWS FROM AROUND THE ASSOCIATION**

**Welcome New Pastors**  
 Fairview (Tellico) ..... John Coleman

**Director of Mission Visits:**  
 Vonore, Rural Vale (Deacon Ordination); Howards Chapel, South Madisonville, New Macedonia (Presentation); Hopewell Springs, Mt. Zion; Williamsburg, Christianburg, Conasauga; Cane Creek; Gregor's Chapel; Fellowship; Fairview Tabernacle  
 On-line: Glenlock; Long Ridge; Madisonville First  
 Note: Millers Chapel; Paint Rock

**Please pray for our churches without pastors:**  
 Bethlehem, Conasauga, Fairview Tabernacle, Trinity, Vonore



**Rescheduled**  
**2022 EVANGELISM RALLY**  
 Monday & Tuesday, January 10-11, 2022  
 Guest Speaker: Dr. Bartholomew Orr  
 Senior Pastor, Brown Missionary Baptist Church, Southaven; MS

**Upcoming Events/News** "God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power and of love." —2 Timothy 1:7"

February 1 Evangelism Committee Meeting, *SBA Office*, 6:30 p.m.  
 February 22 Youth Committee Meeting, *SBA Office*, 6:30 p.m.  
 February 27 Revitalization Conference, *SBA Office*, 9:00 a.m.

March 1 High School Scholarship Applications due, *SBA Office*  
 March 7-14 Week of Prayer for North American Missions & Annie Armstrong Easter Offering  
 March 12-13 Youth Evangelism Conference, *Nashville*  
 March 15 Scholarship Committee Meeting, *SBA Office*, 6:30 p.m.  
 March 19-21 WMU Missions Get-Together and Connection, *Gatlinburg*  
 March 28-April 2 Spring Break, *Monroe County Schools*

April 2 Good Friday  
 April 4 Easter  
 April 12 Missions Committee Meeting, *SBA Office*, 6:30 p.m.  
 April 19 VBS Clinic, *Rocky Springs*, 7:00 p.m.  
 April 26 Executive Board Meeting, *North Sweetwater*, 7:00 p.m.



**FELLOWSHIP ROLLER SKATE**  
 Saturday, February 6, 2021  
 11:30am—1:30pm

AT **ROLL ARENA**  
 PARTYZONE

Only \$5.00 per person, includes skate rental!!!

- Gospel Music
- Option to stay for the public session from 2:00-6:00pm
- No outside food or drink allowed

2801 E. Broadway Ave. Maryville, TN 37804  
 ROLLARENAPARTYZONE.COM

For more information: Contact Event Coordinator, Ed Cullen at 340-514-3728

**Newsletter:** The next issue of the Newsletter will be March/April.

**SBA Office Hours**  
 Monday-Thursday  
 8:30 am—4:00 pm

**ISRAEL 2022:** Seats are still available for the January 20-29, 2022 *Israel Group Tour*. Please contact the SBA Office at 423-442-6604 if you are interested in being part of this tour group.

**SWEETWATER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**  
**2021 High School Scholarships**  
 Applications available online at [www.sweetwaterbaptistassociation.com](http://www.sweetwaterbaptistassociation.com)  
 Completed Applications **DUE March 1st**

**MISSION OPPORTUNITIES, 2021**

Guatemala, June 22-29  
 Guatemala, June 29-July 6  
 Iowa, July 18-23  
 Guatemala, September 14-21

Pending travel restrictions, mandates and protocols.

**Please note:** Photos are taken at all Associational meetings and events. These may be used by the Association in newsletters, on our website or social media sites.

**Lake Side Presents**  
**Singing in the Valley**  
 An evening of great acoustic gospel music!!!  
 Lenoir City High School Auditorium  
 1485 Old Hwy. 95 • Lenoir City, TN  
 Saturday, March 27, 2021 at 6:30PM EST

Featuring:

**JOURNEY HOME**  
 Great Gospel Singing

**THE PRIMITIVE QUARTET**

Tickets: General Seating \$20  
 For Tickets and Information call: 423-420-9408 • [www.lakesidegospel.com](http://www.lakesidegospel.com)  
 Children 11 & Under Free

**Singing in the Valley**  
 Lenoir City High School Auditorium  
 Saturday, March 27, 2021  
 6:30 p.m.  
 Great Gospel Singing

\*Journey Home\* Lake Side\*  
 \*The Primitive Quartet\*

Call 423-420-9408 for additional information

**W2 and 1099 forms** are available at the Associational Office. We are happy to provide these tax forms for our churches.

**SWEETWATER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**  
**2021 SBA Pastor's Conference**  
 Monday Mornings, at 10:00 a.m.  
 SBA Office in Madisonville

**Check Out Our Website**  
[www.sweetwaterbaptistassociation.com](http://www.sweetwaterbaptistassociation.com)  
 Visit us on Facebook