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Volume 11 **November/December, 2021** **Number 54**

Sweetwater Baptist Association
2022 Associational Evangelism Rally
January 10-11 6:45 p.m.
 Hosted by **Notchey Creek Baptist Church, Madisonville, TN**



Dr. Bartholomew Orr, Conference Speaker
 Senior Pastor, Brown Missionary Baptist Church, Southaven, MS

SPECIAL MUSIC
 Monday: Associational Choir under direction of Phillip Johnson
 Tuesday: The Hymnsmen Quartet

Theme: Living Water **EVERYONE INVITED!**


Sweetwater Baptist Association

- Senior Adult Christmas Show**
 Vonore Baptist Church, 10:30 a.m.
- Pastor & Wife Christmas Banquet**
 Vonore Family Life Center, 6:30 p.m.

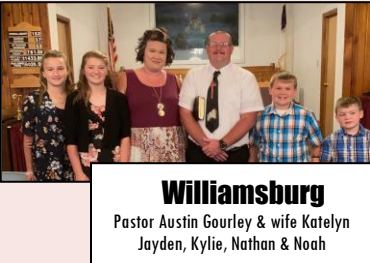
Monday, December 6th



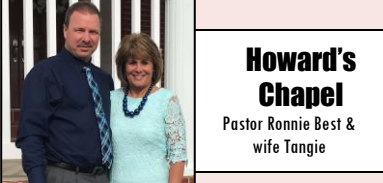
Churches of the Sweetwater Baptist Association welcome new Pastors



Millers Chapel
 Pastor Micah Collins & wife Caitlan
 Daelyn and Kimbree



Williamsburg
 Pastor Austin Gourley & wife Katelyn
 Jayden, Kylie, Nathan & Noah




Howard's Chapel
 Pastor Ronnie Best & wife Tangie

We are praying for these pastors, families, and congregations, as they share the love of Jesus in their communities.


Annual Meeting, 2021

Please join with us as we pray for the
2021-2022 Leadership of the
 Sweetwater Baptist Association



(left to right)
 Darrell Cardin, Vice-Moderator (Pastor, Christianburg Baptist Church)
 Michael McEmore, Moderator (Pastor, 411 Chapel Baptist Church)
 Tony Rutherford, (Director of Missions)
 Lewis Jones, Outgoing Moderator (Pastor, Island Creek Baptist Church)

Welcome Pastor Brad Atkins and
Congregation of New Zion Baptist Church



Messengers accepted the *Petition for Membership* from New Zion Baptist Church pending final vote at April 2022 Executive Board in accordance with *Constitution & By-Laws* of Sweetwater Baptist Association

Director of Missions

Our 2021 Annual Meeting was a tremendous success!



Reports from our organizational leadership team was uplifting and a sign of returning to *normal* after two years of fighting COVID-19. The most glaring concern to me was the number of baptisms in 2020 and in 2021. This issue was created by the inability of outreach to new people and the limited efforts in Vacation Bible School. In the church year 2019-2020, we baptized just over 120 people. This year, 2020-2021, the number increased to 192. The 70 increases over the year before is still 150 baptisms short of the average of 350 annually! Therefore, a renewed emphases on *reaching the lost* needs to be a major concern in all our churches. Both *in-reach and outreach* must move us forward to accomplish the mandate to share the Gospel.

It is always exciting to receive a new church in the Sweetwater Baptist Association family. Welcome to New Zion Baptist Church of Athens, Tennessee, and their pastor Brad Atkins. New Zion was, at one time, an active member in the McMinn-Meigs Association. They have chosen to move to us, as we walk together presenting Christ here at home, as well as, around the world. Under our present *Constitution* they were taken under watch-care of the Association to be considered a full member in April 2022. Please welcome New Zion Baptist Church to our family of churches.

Fresh water finally flowed from the first water well to the village in Myanmar, provided by funds from the churches of the Sweetwater Baptist Association. Two long years of resisting COVID and a military take-over of the government has finally produced the first water well. The Pastor of the local congregation in Myanmar was seriously ill with the virus, and the military prevented the drilling of wells. However, with improved health and without the military's knowledge, the pastor hired men to secretly drill wells to provide water in the name of Jesus. Please continue to pray for the pastor and congregation in Myanmar, as drilling of additional water wells are being planned.

If you have been to the Sweetwater Baptist Association office lately, you have noticed that the Trustees have refurbished the interior of the office area, upgraded the phone system, as well as replaced the 30-year-old roof, and resurfaced the parking lot. These steps were necessary to preserve the integrity of the building. Hopefully, these efforts will provide a blessing to the Churches of the Sweetwater Baptist Association for decades to come.

In closing, I want to express my deep love and appreciation for the gifts the churches provide for the work of the Association. None of the items listed above (plus many things we have not even mentioned) would be possible without God impressing you to pray, give, and to participate. Personally, your acceptance of me and the work of this staff is received as a blessing. Thank you for your gracious giving.

We are entering the holiday season. It is a time of Thanksgiving, and a celebration of our LORD'S birthday. Please enjoy the season with worship and praise. Enjoy your family, friends, and church. Make this a season to remember!

--Merry Christmas, Tony L. Darnell

REPORT FROM ANNUAL MEETING, 2021:

Even after somewhat difficult and extraordinary times, Messengers gathered for the 191st Session of the Sweetwater Baptist Association. "Living Water" was the theme for the 2021 Annual Meeting. The opening welcome and prayer were presented by Pastor Chris Moore, First Baptist Church, Madisonville. Steve Pearson shared a word of greetings from the Tennessee Baptist Mission Board and presented a plaque to the Sweetwater Baptist Association on behalf of churches of the Association that participated in the *Golden Mission Offering*.



The *Memorial Report* included *Dedication of the 2021 Minutes* of the Association in memory of retired or former pastors: Horace Brown, Michael Best, Melvin Martin, and John Smith. These men were dearly beloved and faithful servants to this Association and our Lord. They will be sadly missed.

We thank our Moderator, Lewis Jones for his humble spirit and outstanding leadership this past year. In addition, our Vice-Moderator, Michael McLemore did an outstanding job in leading the Business Session. Items approved by *Messengers* included: Michael McLemore (Pastor of 411 Chapel) will serve as Moderator and Darrell Cardin (Pastor of Christianburg) was elected as Vice-Moderator for 2021-2022; and a proposed budget of \$193,558.00 was approved.

Having met all procedures for admission, the Missions Committee recommended, and *Messengers* unanimously accepted the petition request for membership from New Zion Baptist Church (Brad Atkins currently serves as pastor). New Zion will have all privileges except voting, pending final vote at *Executive Board 2022*. The *Missions Committee Report* indicated that churches have continued to be on mission here at home and around our world. The churches of the Sweetwater Baptist Association received over \$41,000 for the *Isaiah 117* house for Monroe/McMinn county in 2021. In addition, disaster relief supplies and funds were provided for devastating floods, tornadoes and hurricanes in Tennessee and the gulf coast regions. It was also reported that short-term mission projects are being planned for 2022 in Guatemala and Iowa.



We want to thank 19 Pastors, and 103 Messengers and visitors from 30 churches represented that were in attendance for the sessions. We want to thank the host church, Madisonville, First Baptist Church and Pastor Chris Moore. We also want to thank the Program Committee, and everyone that served on the program for this year's *Annual Meeting*.

HOLY LAND GROUP TOUR for SBA & Yael Adventure

(Hosted by Tony Rutherford): The *January 2022 Israel Tour* has been cancelled, and will be rescheduled for a later date. So, if you would like to be part of a future *Holy Land Tour*, please contact the SBA Office at 423-442-6604 for further information. We will be happy to add your name to the list of participants for a potential upcoming trip.



ISAIAH 117: During the past year, over \$41,300.00 was received and presented to the representatives of *Isaiah 117* from the churches of the Sweetwater Baptist Association. *Isaiah 117* is a ministry devoted to providing comfort for children in what can be a most confusing time in their lives. This project will offer a loving, safe, and comfortable facility for children, of Monroe and McMinn County, who are removed



from their homes, by the Department of Children Services, because of concern for their welfare to await placement with a foster family. Land for the *Isaiah House* has been acquired at the intersection of County Road 517 and 519 in Englewood. Thank you



for being part of this worthwhile ministry.

MYANMAR UPDATE: The continued COVID lockdowns and military unrest in the country of Myanmar has hindered the drilling of water wells. In the meantime, rations of rice, onions and oil have been provided for the starving people in the area. We are happy to share with you that finally a water well has been dug, in a very remote area, where there was no clean water available. Funds are on hand and hopefully, additional wells will be drilled as workers and drilling locations become available. Please continue to pray for this ministry, and for God's protection on the workers in this dangerous region.

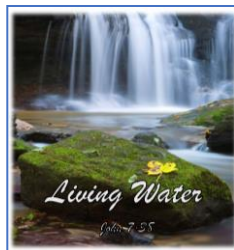


REPORT ON TINY HOUSES: In 2019, \$24,545.65 was presented to *Shelter My Sheep Ministries* on behalf of the churches of the



Sweetwater Baptist Association to provide funds to help build 2 micro "tiny" houses. Construction for 1 "tiny" house has now been completed and the second "tiny" house is nearing completion. The finished unit is already being used. Thank you for your compassionate giving to assist with the homelessness in our area.

2022 ASSOCIATIONAL EVANGELISM RALLY: We want to personally invite you and your church to attend the **2022 Sweetwater Baptist Association Evangelism Rally!**



The Evangelism Committee has planned a 2-night *Evangelism Rally* again for 2022! The meeting will be held on **Monday and Tuesday, January 10 & 11**. Both nights will be hosted by **Notchey Creek Baptist Church** in Madisonville. The meeting will begin at **6:45 p.m.** each evening.

Our conference speaker is **Dr. Bartholomew Orr**. Dr. Orr currently serves as Senior Pastor of Brown Missionary Baptist Church, Southaven, MS. Dr. Orr loves God and loves to do Kingdom work. He has a strong commitment to the local church, a love for the Word

of God, and a heart for lost souls. We are excited to have Dr. Orr to come and share with us for both evenings.

We know you will be blessed as special music on Monday evening will be provided by Phillip Johnson and the Associational Choir. Phillip is Minister of Music at Fairview Baptist Tabernacle Church in Sweetwater. We are also fortunate to have Phillip to serve as our Associational Music Director.

Then we know you will receive an added blessing as The Hymnsmen Quartet will provide special music on Tuesday evening.

Please encourage your church leaders and members to attend the *Evangelism Rally*. You will not want to miss this great event! Everyone is invited to attend. Mark your calendars for **Monday and Tuesday evening, January 10th and 11th at Notchey Creek Baptist Church!**



PASTOR & WIFE CHRISTMAS BANQUET: The *Annual Pastor and Wife Christmas Banquet* will be held on **Monday evening, December 6th at 6:30 p.m.** Christian Comedians, Bean & Bailey will be the guest entertainment for the evening. The catered meal/banquet will be held at Vonore Baptist

Church, Family Life Center in Vonore. Due to limited space and to help plan the meal, reservations are required.

Pastors, this is a reminder for you to please send in your reservation request for the *Banquet*. You can call the SBA Office at 442-6604 or email becky.jones@bellsouth.net or sweetwaterassoci@bellsouth.net the number attending the banquet to be held on **Monday evening, December 6th**.



SENIOR ADULT CHRISTMAS

SHOW: The *Senior Adult Christmas Show* will be held on **Monday morning, December 6th at 10:30 a.m.** This is a **FREE** event; open to everyone, and all ages are invited! It will be held at Vonore Baptist Church.

Bean & Bailey will be the guest performers! This nationally known comedy duo of Bradley Bean and Jackson Bailey have been performing as Bean & Bailey since 1999. Their musical talents coupled with clean humor is more than just a great show. Bean and Bailey's mission is to bring clean, wholesome humor to audiences across America. We know you will not want to miss this opportunity to see Bean & Bailey on **Monday, December 6th!**

Senior Adult Christmas Show

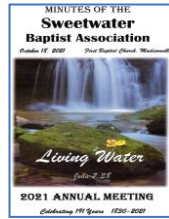
Featuring: **Bean & Bailey**
Monday, December 6, 10:30 a.m.
 Vonore Baptist Church
FREE Event! Everyone Invited!



BIBLICAL STUDIES CLASS: The winter session for the *Biblical Studies Class* at the Sweetwater Baptist Association office will begin on **Tuesday, January 4th 6:30 p.m.** This will be a non-credit class taught by Dr. John Powers, and will be *I Believe: Studies in Biblical Doctrine*. The cost of the class is \$20.00 per person.



ATTENTION CHURCH CLERKS: The *2021 Minutes of the 191st Annual Meeting of the Sweetwater Baptist Association* are now at the printers and will be available for pickup in the SBA office very soon. If your church ordered *Minutes of the Annual Meeting*, please stop by the Association Office at your convenience to pick up your copies. This year the *2021 Minutes* were dedicated in memory of retired and former pastors, Horace Brown, Michael Best, Melvin Martin, and John Smith. Extra copies of the *Minutes* are available at \$7.00 per printed copy on a first-come, first-serve basis. The *Minutes of the 191st Annual Meeting* are also available on our website at www.sweetwaterbaptistassociation.com.



2022 SBA CALENDARS will soon be available at the Sweetwater Baptist Association Office. We have asked that *2022 Associational Calendars* be picked up, if possible.



We hope Pastors and Church Leadership will use the calendar in planning church events for 2022, and anything we have scheduled would not hinder any of the events at one of the churches. This allows each of us the opportunity to support the ministries that are offered by both the Association and each of our churches.

HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS, 2022: Just a reminder to our pastors and youth leaders! Information regarding the Sweetwater Baptist Association, *High School Scholarship* program will be available for a limited time online on our website at www.sweetwaterbaptistassociation.com or can be picked up at the Associational Office. Scholarship applications for 2022 must be completed and returned to the Association Office by **March 1st**. Please help us get this word out to our students by announcing this to your church.



INDIVIDUAL, COUPLES, & FAMILY COUNSELING
(Christmas Gift Certificates now available)
Contact Macy Small, 865.414.3269 for further details.

GUATEMALA MISSION PROJECT: We are praying for short-term mission volunteers to serve on ministry teams in 2022 in Guatemala. It is hopeful that established ministry work will continue where focus has already begun by current teams, and additional work will begin in different areas of Guatemala by new teams. If you are interested in serving on a 2022 mission team in Guatemala, please contact the Sweetwater Baptist Association. Project dates are tentatively planned for June 21-28, June 28-July 5, and September 13-20.



IOWA MISSION PROJECT: An Iowa mission project is being planned for summer, 2022. Please contact the SBA office at 423-442-6604 if you are interested in serving on a short-term mission project in Iowa or for additional information.



LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING FOR INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS: The *Lottie Moon Christmas Offering* has been supporting missionaries since 1888. Your giving makes this work possible. Your offerings enable missionaries to be sent to make disciples and multiply churches among unreached people and places for the glory of God. The suggested date for the *Week of Prayer for International Missions* and *Lottie Moon Christmas Offering* is November 28-December 5. Plan now to be part in the *Week of Prayer for International Missions* and the *Lottie Moon Christmas Offering*. The theme for this year is *Let's Advance God's Kingdom Together*.



100% of gifts to the *Lottie Moon Christmas Offering* fund IMB missionaries around our world. *2020 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering* gifts at work helped:

- 422 new missionaries
- 18,380 new churches
- 86,587 people baptized
- 769,494 hear Gospel witness

Yet billions remain lost! Your generosity helps make an impact, as *Together* we do much more! (Information taken from www.imb.org.)

Equipping Your Church to do Personal Evangelism



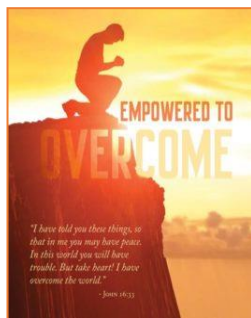
**Developing Spiritual Growth for Churches & Members
March 21, 2022...Watch for details!**



Macy Small, M.A.
112 Key Kile Road
Sweetwater, TN 37874
865.414.3269

www.fairviewfamily.org





Tennessee Baptist Mission Board presents
**2022 Bivocational Pastor's
 & Wives Retreat**
January 27-29
 Music Road Hotel & Convention Center
 Pigeon Forge, TN
 Guest Speakers:
 Randy Davis, Danny Sinquefield,
 Willie McLaurin, Roc Collins
 Additional information: www.tnbaptist.org

of churches and the monthly list for the birthday cake schedule is on the back of *The Messenger*.)

In fact, in consideration of the ongoing covid pandemic, and also to not place any undue stress on a host church, meals will not be planned or provided at our future *WMU/Ladies Meetings*, as we move forward. Over the weeks and months to come, please watch for more information on Associational *WMU/Ladies Ministry*. We look forward to seeing your group at the meetings, and hope you will be part of this ministry!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

NEWS: Lifeway's Vacation Bible School Jump-Start Kits and VBS materials for 2022 will soon be released! Get ready to be part of **SPARK STUDIOS: Created in Christ, Designed for God's Purpose!**



LifeWay's 2022 VBS *Spark Studio* will inspire imagination and kick creativity into high gear. Kids will learn that God's creativity did not stop in Genesis! They will learn that the Master Artist is working to redeem, reclaim and transform us – His creation – to the design He has planned for us. Kids will see the truth that they are God's workmanship, as they learn to use their talents to bring glory and honor to Him. The motto is *Created! Designed! Empowered!* and the theme verse is from Ephesians 2:10, *For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*

The daily content and story for each session is as follows:

- Day 1 God, the Creator God is the marvelous Creator
- Day 2 God, the Designer God uniquely designed us for His purpose
- Day 3 Jesus, the King Jesus is the King that God promised to save us
- Day 4 Jesus, the Redeemer Jesus fulfilled God's plan to save us
- Day 5 Holy Spirit, the Helper The Holy Spirit gives us the power to follow God's plan

The 2022 Associational VBS Clinic will be held on **Monday evening, April 11th** at Rocky Springs Baptist Church at 7:00 p.m. We look forward to seeing you there!



As you plan your VBS, please remember that the Association offers the "VBS Link-up" program. This allows churches to donate leftover materials and supplies and they are then passed on to other churches to use for free. (Thank you to each church who participates each year in this program.)

The Associational staff and VBS team are available and happy to help you with 2022 Vacation Bible School materials, workers, and resources. If you have not used LifeWay Vacation Bible School materials and supplies in the past, we encourage you to look at and consider the 2022 *Jump-Start Kits*.

Watch for additional information about Vacation Bible School and the VBS Clinic. We pray you have a blessed and joyous Christmas and New Year! Bryan and Kim Williamson, *Associational VBS Directors*

**SBA
 WMU/Ladies Ministry News**

We want to thank Charlotte Hollinghead for serving as the Associational *WMU/Ladies Ministry* Director for the past 8 years. Join us



as we welcome Rachel Montooth Thompson, who will begin serving as our Associational *WMU/Ladies Ministry* Director. Rachel and her family attend Shelton Grove. You may want to invite Rachel to your local group meeting in order for your group to get to know her.

WMU is a vital part of Missions in our churches, our state and around the world. Several of our churches have

very active WMU groups, but over the years, many churches have branched out into various other types of Ladies Groups. Our churches now have Ladies Circles, Ladies Small Groups, Ladies Quilting Groups, etc. Some churches will have a WMU Group, and another type of Ladies Groups, as well. All of these groups have common goals. They exist to serve in God's Kingdom, to do missions within their communities and around the world, and to be a support and encouragement to other ladies. Thus, to be inclusive of all the types of Ladies Ministry Groups in our Association, we have attempted to make some adjustments to the current *Associational WMU Meetings*. Therefore, we hope to bring all of our ladies together in worship, ministry, and missions.

So, whether your church has a WMU Group or another type of Ladies Ministry...whether your group consists of young ladies or senior ladies, or anyone in between...our Associational *WMU/Ladies Meetings* are for YOU! For churches who do not have an "official" Ladies Ministry...you are not left out. Anyone can attend our *WMU/Ladies Meetings*. We want all ladies to feel welcomed, involved and discover ways to serve. You will be blessed, and you may be a blessing to someone else.

Ladies, please remember that due to COVID-19 safeguards and precautions, the Madisonville Health and Rehab may or may not be accepting monthly birthday cakes. However, we ask that you please contact the Activities Director at the Madisonville Health and Rehab at 442-3990 when it is your time to provide the birthday cake. Since rules at the facility are constantly changing, updated precautions are being implemented concerning entrance at the nursing home continuously. We want to thank all the churches who participate in the *Birthday Cake Ministry* at Madisonville Health and Rehab. (A list

YOUTH COMMITTEE: With a new Associational year, comes a new Youth Committee Chairman. Josh Croft has served on the Youth Committee for the past three years, and serves as the Youth Pastor at Old Sweetwater Baptist Church. We appreciate Josh's leadership and are looking forward to a great year in Youth Ministry.



CHURCH GIFTS: We are so thankful to the churches for the gifts you have provided for the Sweetwater Baptist Association. These gifts support the various budget ministries of the Association.



We wanted to share a *Yearly Report* of our *Church Gifts* for **October 2020 through September 2021** which totaled \$199,246.68, as reported at *Annual Meeting, 2021*. You will note the second column of the following list shows total gifts for each church for 2020-2021. In addition, we have included church gifts for the new Associational year beginning October 1, 2021. Church gifts received for the month of October 2021 totaled \$19,871.20 and appear in the last column.

Again, we thank you for your giving for Kingdom work. Please review this information and contact our office if you should have any questions.

**SBA Church Gifts
Yearly Report for 2020-2021 and
Church Gifts for Month of October 2021**

Church/Mission	2020-2021	
	Totals	October, 2021
411 Chapel	1500.00	0.00
Antioch	225.00	25.00
Beaty's Chapel	200.00	0.00
Bethlehem	14,030.45	1102.00
Big Creek	500.00	0.00
Calvary	1087.43	82.10
Cane Creek	2400.00	200.00
Cedar Fork	5827.49	425.74
Cedar Valley	8445.46	410.40
Christianburg	956.01	313.14
Citico	1065.76	86.90
Clifton	275.00	25.00
Community	886.03	84.30
Compromise	600.00	50.00
Conasauga	1300.00	0.00
Concord	1861.07	0.00
Delano	4366.40	358.79
Druid Hills	900.00	100.00
Ebenezer	672.00	62.00
Fairview	3600.00	0.00
Fairview Tabernacle	19,639.88	1500.00
Fellowship	1629.86	115.99
Glenlock	2675.33	1002.00
Gregory's Chapel	1200.00	100.00
Hopewell Springs	75.00	202.00
Howards Chapel	385.75	0.00
Island Creek	3300.00	300.00
Lakeside	1800.00	0.00
Long Ridge	1000.00	1000.00
Lower Chilhowee	50.00	50.00

Macedonia	200.00	200.00
Madisonville, First	5000.04	416.67
Maple Springs	500.00	500.00
Miller's Chapel	1200.00	100.00
Mt. Calvary	1134.55	105.30
Mt. Isabella	0.00	0.00
Mt. Zion	5957.46	493.00
Murray's	1633.00	1778.00
New Bethany	5101.75	237.79
New Macedonia	1680.00	140.00
New Providence	6628.78	620.65
North Sweetwater	1608.51	92.39
Notchey Creek	5726.40	491.52
Oak Grove	4150.47	804.81
Oakland	300.00	100.00
Old Pond Hill	225.00	75.00
Old Sweetwater	1000.00	0.00
Paint Rock	1320.00	110.00
Piney Grove	0.00	0.00
Poplar Bluff	3092.70	283.80
Reed Springs	0.00	0.00
Rocky Springs	5000.00	400.00
Rural Vale	4483.95	437.05
Shady Grove	300.00	100.00
Shelton Grove	2044.26	205.83
Shoal Creek	1220.00	0.00
South Madisonville	1200.00	100.00
Sweetwater, First	4200.00	350.00
Tellico	1200.00	0.00
Tellico Plains, First	5942.00	509.00
Tevis Springs	100.00	100.00
Towee Falls	1800.00	150.00
Trinity	500.00	0.00
Union Grove	1440.00	120.00
Union Hall	608.00	98.00
Union McMinn	4800.00	400.00
Unity	600.00	0.00
Upper Shady Grove	600.00	50.00
Vonore	21,599.80	1564.87
Walnut Grove	2955.74	0.00
Watson Chapel	2610.00	290.00
Westside	0.00	0.00
Williamsburg	597.47	35.00
TBMB	9384.00	782.00
Misc AM	0.00	0.00
Misc Interest	388.88	35.16
Total Income	199,246.68	19,871.20



COMMUNITY

Harvest Supper will be held on Saturday, November 6th at 5:30 pm. The community is invited to attend.

NOTCHEY CREEK

Visit our website for upcoming Thanksgiving & Christmas events
www.notcheycreekbaptist.org

ISLAND CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Deacon Ordination Service will be held on Sunday, November 28th at 2:00 pm. The church has called 4 Deacons, Mike Isbill (previously ordained), and will be ordaining 3 new Deacons, Chad Price, Jason Thompson and Tracy Maxwell. Pastor Lewis Jones invites all ordained men to join the presbytery for this service.

This is our 10th year serving as a drop-off center for Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes. Volunteers are always welcome to help (a great way to get community service hours for students). For more information, contact Sherry Kidd at 423-261-4573 or Carolyn Reynolds at 423-836-3464. The drop-off schedule is listed elsewhere in this newsletter.

POPLAR BLUFF

A Deacon Ordination Service will be held on Sunday, November 7th at 2:00 pm for Roger Powers and Randy Wear. Pastor Roman Hamilton invites all ordained men to join the presbytery for this service.

On Nov 27 at Noon, Poplar Bluff is hosting community-wide "Share a Meal of Thanksgiving" at the Tellico Plains Community Center (first come, first served).

Please join Hosts, Roman Hamilton and Paul Chapman on a weekly podcast called "Truth Revival". New episodes are released every Tuesday at 10:00 am.

Gospel Plow is the 3RD Friday Each Month at 6:00 pm. If you play an instrument or want to learn, we would love for you to join us as we gather to worship!

UNION MCMINN

- Nov 15-22 - Shoebox Collection Week
- Nov 20 - Thanksgiving Dinner 6:00PM
- Nov 23 - Praise and Worship Service 6:30PM
- Nov 28 - Celebration of Blessings Service 6:30PM
- Dec 9 - Lottie Moon Special Offering
- Dec 10-11 - Nativity Drive Thru
- Dec 19 - Redeem Team Performance
- Dec 24 - Christmas Eve Service 6:30PM

VONORE

Join us for Christmas at Vonore, Sunday, December 19th at 10:00 am & 6:00 pm.

Vonore Baptist is seeking a Senior Pastor: The individual in this position must (1) be set-apart for pastoral ministry (called of God); (2) be approved for spiritual leadership (ordained by the Church); (3) be distinguished in Biblical interpretation (prepared in seminary, preferred). Additionally, applicant shall be Southern Baptist by conviction and committed to living and serving in accordance with the standards set forth by Baptist Faith and Message 2000. The primary responsibility of this position is to preach and teach the inerrant Word of God as led by the Holy Spirit; clearly expounding and practically applying God's truth to the VBC congregation. The individual holding this position shall be the principal communicator of the Gospel during public worship, ensuring the church is growing to maturity in Christ. The position is full-time salaried with flexible office hours allowed (consistent with pastoral duties). Applicants must have no fewer than five years successful Senior Pastor experience. Interested applicants should submit their resumes to the VBC Pastor Search Committee Chairman at P.O.

Box 308, Vonore, TN 37885 or via email at VonorePastorSearch2021@gmail.com.

WATSON CHAPEL

Our Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner will be held on Saturday, November 13th, from Noon until 2:00 pm. This will be a FREE Drive-Thru meal. For more information or to schedule a delivery to elderly or shut-ins, contact the church at 423-442-5459.

We offer a Community-Wide College and Career Age Bible Study: Monday Nights at 7:30 pm. Everyone welcome.

ORDINATIONS

On October 3rd, Austin Gourley was ordained into the gospel ministry at Miller's Chapel Baptist Church. Austin has been called to his first pastorate at Williamsburg Baptist Church.



On October 24th, Justin Lethcoe was ordained as a Deacon at Rural Vale Baptist Church.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD
National Shoebox Collection Week
Nov. 15–22, 2021



SHOEBOX DROP-OFF LOCATIONS

ISLAND CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH
2505 Highway 411, Madisonville
Mon-Fri..... 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Sat 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Sun 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Mon, Nov 22 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

UNION MCMINN BAPTIST CHURCH
314 CR 316, Niota
Mon-Fri..... 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM
Sat 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Sun 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Mon, Nov 22 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Sweetwater Baptist Association

696 Anderson Street
Madisonville, TN 37354

Return Service Requested

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37354

ASSOCIATIONAL OFFICERS, 2021-2022

MODERATOR

MICHAEL McLEMORE

VICE MODERATOR

DARRELL CARDIN

Associational Council

Officers & Committee Chairman

Committee on Nominations

Carroll Hamilton, Chairman

Children's Director

Kendra McDonald

Constitution Committee

Roman Hamilton, Chairman

Finance Committee

Jonas Turpin, Chairman

Disaster Relief Director

Jim Jollay

Evangelism Committee

Doug Alexander, Chairman

Mission Committee

Ronnie Best, Chairman

Men's Ministry Director

Bryan Coffey

Personnel Committee

Shannon Croft, Chairperson

Music Director

Phillip Johnson

Scholarship Committee

Mitch Ingram, Chairman

Trustees

Pat McGinnis, Chairman

Youth Council

Josh Croft, Chairman

WMU/Ladies Director

Vacation Bible School Directors

Bryan & Kim Williamson

NEWS FROM AROUND THE ASSOCIATION

Welcome New Pastors

Howard's Chapel.....Ronnie Best

Miller's Chapel.....Micah Collins Williamsburg.....Austin Gourley

Director of Mission Visits/Miscellaneous:

North Sweetwater (*Homecoming*); Notchey Creek; Mt. Isabella;

Poplar Bluff (*Old Fashioned Prayer Meeting*); Notchey Creek (*Revival*);

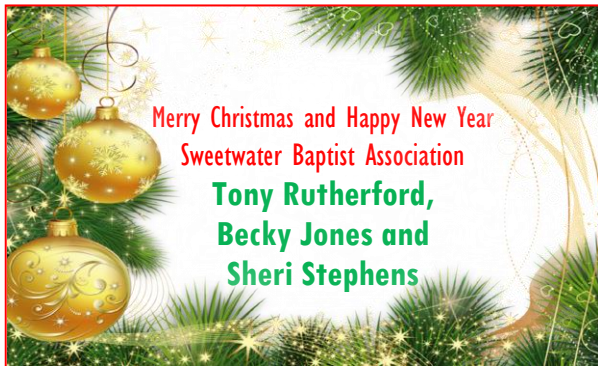
Antioch; Madisonville First (Church Growth & Development Conference); Calvary;

Other: Funeral;

Online: Notchey Creek; Cedar Fork

Please pray for our churches without pastors:

Clifton (Interim), Lakeside, Lower Chilhowee, Notchey Creek (Interim), Vonore (Interim)



Upcoming Events/News

“Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men.”

—Luke 2:14

November 25...Thanksgiving Day

Nov 28-Dec 5...*Week of Prayer* for International Missions
and *Lottie Moon Christmas Offering*

December 25 Christmas Day



January 1 New Year's Day

January 4 *Biblical Studies* Classes Begin

January 10 & 11 SBA *Evangelism Rally*,
Notchey Creek, 6:45 p.m.



Check Out Our Website

www.sweetwaterbaptistassociation.com

Visit us on Facebook

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.

Newsletter: The next issue of the Newsletter will be January/February.

WMU/Ladies Group

Please check the Activities Director at 442-3990 regarding entrance at facility.
Madisonville Health & Rehab – Nursing Home Birthday Cake Schedule

November Bethlehem
January Vonore
March New Providence
May Concord
July Lakeside
September Mt. Zion

December New Bethany
February Rocky Springs
April Oak Grove
June Madisonville FBC
August 411 Chapel
October Notchey Creek



SBA Office Hours

Monday-Thursday
8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

SBA Pastor's Conference

Monday Mornings at 10:00 a.m.
No Pastor's Conference in Month of December
Pastors Conference will resume on January 3rd

The Association Office will be closed December 20th-January 3rd in observance of the holidays. We are thankful to the Association for allowing us this time to spend with family and friends. – The Associational Staff