

Director of Missions



I saw geese flying north the other day. Listening closely, I could hear the encouraging sound of the trailing geese “honking” to the leader. Long after the echoes of the sounds of encouragement faded, the gaggle of geese flew on. Words of encouragement linger long after the sound fills our ears. Words taken to heart have a way to mold our future and provide nourishment for the journey. Imagine how the disciples felt when Jesus said, “*Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*” Long after Jesus spoke these words, the disciples must have been encouraged in each step of their journey. Some day He is coming for me!

The sounds of those who participated in the *Senior Adult Christmas Celebration, Pastors and Wives Christmas Banquet, and the Financial Seminar* still ring in our ear. Your laughter, “thank you,” and “helpful” responses create encouragement for the Sweetwater Baptist Association. We had the largest gathering for the *Senior Adult Christmas Celebration* in several years, and the other events were pleasantly attended, as well. If you failed to attend any of these planned events, please consider marking your calendar for next year. Just as a well-placed “amen” lifts your pastor as he presents the Word of God, your presence at an associational event is a blessing to your associational staff.

We have much “flying” ahead of us in the coming year. Churches are now in the middle of receiving the *Guatemala Project Offering*. Pastor Fred and The Lamb of God Baptist Church in Las Mercedes is in dire need of a cistern covered, bathrooms, and the floor finished. Our Association approved a goal of \$25,000 to assist in completing this project in our *2022 Annual Meeting*. Prayerfully, this goal will be reached and surpassed. Your faithfulness in giving continues to bring joy to our hearts.

Churches are also “soaring” in preparation for Vacation Bible School. The first ever *Associational VBS Showcase* is scheduled for Tuesday, March 7 at 6:30. The *Showcase* will be held at the associational office and examples of five choices of materials will be available for your consideration. This method of VBS Clinic provides each church with a greater selection of materials to choose from. We have noticed churches are using alternative studies than the recommended issue from Lifeway. We are here to serve you and therefore want to expand our VBS selection to better meet the needs of our churches.

Mission activities are moving forward as we journey through the summer. Trips to Guatemala and Iowa are being planned, and teams are already being formed. The beauty of God’s world is not only seen from above, but also in the eyes, heart, and soul of people laboring together on mission. The spiritual blessing cannot be described but only experienced by serving our Master on mission. I hope you have the privilege of serving God on mission sometime this

summer. You do not have to journey abroad to be a missionary, we all live on a mission field!

Finally, sometime ago your pastor received a letter from me explaining I am facing another round of cancer. Five years ago, I had part of my right kidney removed because of cancer. Since that time, I have done fine. However, over the Christmas holidays, I was diagnosed with prostate cancer. Because of the previous experience with cancer, the doctors strongly suggest I have the prostate removed to prevent any return of cancer. I concur with the physician’s findings and will be having surgery March 8th. I have met with the Mission Committee, and they have encouraged me to take up to 3 months leave with pay. This should allow time to recover and resume my work for our Savior and our churches. (I do not think it will take the entire time before I am back in the office.) The greatest blessing from the meeting with the Mission Committee was their commitment to pray for me as they expressed their love and support. I will long remember how they lifted me above the cloud of cancer. I covet your prayers that the cancer is contained, and the surgeon’s abilities are directed by God’s Spirit. Thank you in advance for your love and support.

Happy Easter. --- Tony Rutherford

ASSOCIATIONAL NEWS/EVENTS/INFORMATION

Don’t Forget...

Dr. Roc Collins

Pastors Conference; Preachers Class

Saturday, February 25th

8:30 a.m. light breakfast, conference begins at 9:00 a.m.

Hosted by... **Notchey Creek Baptist Church**

5529 New Hwy 68, Madisonville

TBMB Acts 2:17: SBA Pastors and Church Leaders are invited to be part of the **Group Listening Session** that will be held Monday morning, **February 27th, 10:00 a.m.** at the Sweetwater Baptist



Association office building in Madisonville. The Tennessee Baptist Convention will observe its 150th Anniversary in 2024. Ahead of this milestone, the *Acts 2:17 Initiative* will help determine the future direction for the Convention. *Listening Sessions* are being held across the state. Registration is requested by February 20th. A light lunch will be provided.

SBA HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS, 2023: Information regarding the

Sweetwater Baptist Association, *High School Scholarship* program is available for a limited time on our website at www.sweetwaterbaptistassociation.com

or can be picked up at the Associational Office. Scholarship applications for 2023 must be completed and returned to the SBA Office by **March 1st**.





EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING: The Sweetwater Baptist Association, *Executive Board Meeting* will be held on **Monday, April 17th at 7:00 p.m.** The meeting will be held at **Oak Grove Baptist Church in Madisonville.**

According to the *SBA Constitution and Bylaws*, Executive Members are: Associational Staff, Associational Officers and Council, Pastors/Interim Pastor and one elected Executive Board Member from each church. Names of Executive Board Members from each church must be submitted to the Sweetwater Baptist Association office for a list of Executive Board Members to be compiled before the meeting.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL NEWS: Pastors...VBS Directors, we want to encourage you to please plan now to attend the first-ever VBS Showcase at the Sweetwater Baptist

Association! It will be held at **6:30 p.m. on Tuesday evening, March 7th** at the SBA Office in Madisonville. **We look forward to seeing you!**

Five (5) VBS Themes will be on display to give you an opportunity to look at the

2023 Vacation Bible School
SHOWCASE
Tuesday evening, March 7th
 6:30 p.m., SBA Office, Madisonville

different options that are available; and decide which theme might work best for your church. VBS Kits for each theme, including samples of teaching curriculum, music, games, posters/decorations, prizes, etc. will be available for your review. These materials will remain on display (during office hours) until the end of March.

BEST OF ALL, ALL 5 VBS KITS WILL THEN BE GIVEN AWAY AT A DRAWING ON MARCH 30TH! Pastors or VBS Directors can register for the drawings, at the SHOWCASE and up until noon on March 30th. (You must register for the drawing in-person; but you do not have to be present to win). After the drawings on March 30th, we will notify the churches who were selected to receive a kit.

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. Those donations can be dropped off at the Associational office or arrangements can be made between individual churches to pass along their donations. As always, if your church needs assistance with planning or conducting Vacation Bible School, we are here to help.

Please send us your VBS dates and times and we will publish them in the next issue of *The Messenger*, if space is available!

Please join with us as we are praying for a great summer of Vacation Bible Schools in our churches, and children all across our Association coming to know Christ as Savior. --*Bryan and Kim Williamson, Associational VBS Directors*

ISAIAH 117: Construction on the *Isaiah 117* house for Monroe/McMinn County is almost complete, and it will not be long until guests will be walking thru the bright red door! Kitchen appliances, shoe-molding and trim, all electrical, plumbing, final painting, closet shelving, and pantry shelving are complete! Furniture, beds, blinds, are installed, TVs are mounted, and the *Giving Room* is organized! They are just waiting for the weather to cooperate to have driveway and sidewalks poured. Once that is complete, the fence, playground, sod and landscaping can all be completed so a ribbon cutting can be scheduled. The house will be used as a place for children to stay while waiting for placement in foster care. The house is located at the intersection of County Road 517 and 519 in Englewood. Thank you for being part of this ministry.



MYANMAR WELLS UPDATE: At last report (thru funds provided by the churches of the Sweetwater Baptist Association) 30 water wells have been dug in Myanmar! This is during a time of civil unrest and military harassment in the country.



For many of the residents of Myanmar, this is the first clean water they have ever had. In the midst of difficult times, these wells and other ministries have opened the door to share the Good News of Christ. Thank you for sharing your love through this ministry.

FEBRUARY LOVE OFFERING FOR GUATEMALA: Thank you to those that have already participated in the love offering for Las Mercedes Baptist Church in Guatemala where Pastor Fred Aguilar Osoria serves. This church is in dire need of three major items, as follows:



- (1) Construction of bathrooms
- (2) Covering for existing water well
- (3) Installation/finishing of sanctuary floor

Messengers at the *2022 Annual Meeting* voted to ask the Churches to please receive a love offering to help fund these projects. If your church would like to participate in this project, please send your donation/offering to the Association Office. Be sure to indicate that the offering is for *Guatemala, Las Mercedes Project*. We ask that your church prayerfully be part of this ministry.

Funds received for GUATEMALA MISSION OFFERING
Las Mercedes Baptist Church

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Cedar Fork Baptist Church..... | 1,000.00 |
| Clifton Baptist Church..... | 200.00 |
| Hopewell Springs Baptist Church | 3,144.50 |
| Macedonia Baptist Church..... | 200.00 |
| Natchey Creek Baptist Church..... | 1,616.00 |
| Rural Vale Baptist Church..... | 850.00 |
| Etta Hawke and Betsy Riley (in memory of Mrs. Beryl Cagle)..... | 50.00 |
| Annual Meeting Offering 2022..... | 1,332.00 |
| Evangelism Rally Offering 2023 | 1,680.26 |

GUATEMALA: The Tennessee Baptist Mission Board (TBMB) and Guatemala Baptist Convention have confirmed dates for Sweetwater Baptist Association mission projects in Guatemala for 2023. Project dates are set for June 20-27. Mission volunteers must have a valid passport, as well as any required vaccinations from their doctor or health department. **Completed paperwork, applications and deposits are due at the SBA Office by March 3rd** if you are interested in being part of the 2023 Guatemala mission project. If you should have any questions about the mission project, please contact the SBA Office immediately.



Miscellaneous Funds received for GUATEMALA MINISTRIES

Union McMinn (Pastor Fred Salary Support).... 1200.00
 Birchfield (Pastor Hugo VBS) 500.00
 Greg Watson (Pastor Hugo VBS)..... 35.00



Fort Sherman Academy Travel Security Training is required for all volunteers participating in upcoming mission projects in Guatemala. This online security training is valid for 2 years. In addition to the Fort Sherman Travel Security, the Tennessee Baptist Mission Board requires all participants to complete online evangelistic, cross-cultural, and child protection training.

Oct. 2022 to present Disaster Relief Funds

Bobby and Charlotte Best100.00
 Anonymous, KY Floods.....100.00
 Anonymous, KY Coat Fund.....100.00
 Notchey Creek, FLA Hurricane3007.00
 Vonore, Seekers Sunday School Class, FLA Hurricane.....500.00
 Steekee Creek, FLA Hurricane500.00
 Anonymous, FLA Hurricane100.00

IOWA: A partnership mission team from the Sweetwater Baptist Association will be traveling to Iowa, **July 15-22**. These volunteers will work with a local pastor and church in a community near Iowa City called Downey. The team will participate in small construction projects, Vacation Bible Schools, revivals, and door-to-door witnessing.



Please remember this mission team, as well as all other mission teams from our churches, as they share the love of Christ in our communities, across our state, country, and world.

UKRAINE RELIEF: During the past months, numerous churches and individuals have asked how they can help the people of Ukraine.



Svitlana Self, our Resident Interpreter, is available to assist with the distribution of monetary gifts to help minister to the needs of churches, pastors, family and friends that remain in the Ukraine. Svitlana can be contacted at 423-420-9253 or through our office at 423-442-6604. Thank you to the many churches that have already shared in

ministering to those deeply affected and severely impacted by the crisis in Ukraine.

Thank you churches for always being generous supporters of missions. Please continue praying for the Ukraine nation and the people of Ukraine.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER: The annual *National Day of Prayer* will be held on **Thursday, May 4th**. The theme for 2023 is *Pray Fervently in Righteousness* based on James 5:16b.



God hears us when we call upon Him. He answers prayer! So let us join together, praying earnestly to our Lord. He will hear our cries, and the powerful results accomplish more than we can ever imagine. Pray for our communities, our state, our country, and our world. Plan now to participate in a *National Day of Prayer* event on Thursday, May 4th. For more information, visit www.nationaldayofprayer.org.



We hope everyone is looking forward to the upcoming *Ladies Ministry* Meeting on May 1st at 7:00 pm. Our host for the meeting will be Notchey Creek Baptist



SBA WMU/Ladies Ministry

Church in Madisonville, and our guest speaker for the evening will be former IMB missionary, Kim Cruse. Kim served in the Philippines for a number of years and is currently serving the Tennessee WMU. We know you will not want to miss Kim as she shares of her time of serving in the Philippines and how God is using her now. We look forward to seeing everyone on Monday, May 1st.

WMU/LADIES MEETING
Monday, May 1, 7:00 pm
 Notchey Creek Baptist Church
 5529 New Hwy 68, Madisonville

If we can be of any assistance to any of our ladies groups, please feel free to contact the associational office or email me directly at

racheljthompson20@outlook.com. Rachel Thompson, Associational WMU/Ladies Director

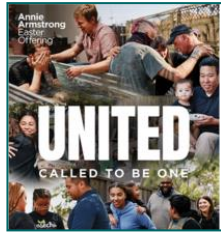
MISSIONS GET-TOGETHER



Brentwood Baptist Church
March 16-18 \$125 per person
Registration closes March 3
 Visit www.tnwmu.org for more information.

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

The suggested date for the *Week of Prayer for North American Missionaries and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering* was March 5-12, 2023. The theme for this year is *UNITED... Called To Be One*. 100% of your gifts to the *Annie Armstrong Easter Offering* support North American missions.



The North American Mission Board depend on your prayers as they serve a diverse and complex region comprised of the United States, Canada and the territories of Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam and American Samoa. In addition, your gifts support more than 2400 missionaries across North America. They are taking the Gospel to people of 350 languages where spiritual and cultural divides are deep and growing. Almost every nation in the world is represented in North America, making it one of the most complex mission fields. It is reported that there are some 371 million people in North America, of which 281 million express they are without the love of Christ. Please pray!

If you would like to receive AAEO materials for your church, please email aaeo@namb.net or call 800-634-2462. (Information found on-line at anniearmstrong.com.)

CHURCH GIFTS: The ministries of the Sweetwater Baptist Association are supported by gifts from our churches. Here are the *Church Gifts from October 1st thru February 13th*. As you review the list of *Church Gifts*, we want to thank you for all gifts received. Your faithful support of the Sweetwater Baptist Association is greatly encouraged and appreciated. Again, we thank all the Churches for your continued support.



SBA Church Gifts: October 1, 2022 – February 13, 2023

| Church/Mission | Oct. 2022 | Nov. 2022 | Dec. 2022 | Jan. 2023 | Feb. 2023 | Total |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| 411 Chapel | 1,500.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1,500.00 |
| Antioch | 25.00 | 0.00 | 50.00 | 25.00 | 25.00 | 125.00 |
| Beaty's Chapel | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Bethlehem | 1,123.00 | 1,638.50 | 1,117.00 | 1,154.50 | 1,859.05 | 6,892.05 |
| Big Creek | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Calvary | 95.00 | 102.00 | 87.00 | 68.00 | 99.00 | 451.00 |
| Cane Creek | 200.00 | 200.00 | 200.00 | 200.00 | 200.00 | 1,000.00 |
| Cedar Fork | 438.83 | 747.81 | 483.84 | 464.03 | 0.00 | 2,134.51 |
| Cedar Valley | 803.72 | 0.00 | 1,621.40 | 1,611.35 | 0.00 | 4,036.47 |
| Christianburg | 0.00 | 588.32 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 655.10 | 1,243.42 |
| Citico | 70.10 | 101.80 | 0.00 | 170.25 | 51.55 | 393.70 |
| Clifton | 0.00 | 25.00 | 25.00 | 25.00 | 25.00 | 100.00 |
| Community | 70.41 | 92.58 | 59.61 | 68.97 | 86.13 | 377.70 |
| Compromise | 50.00 | 50.00 | 50.00 | 50.00 | 50.00 | 250.00 |
| Conasauga | 200.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 200.00 | 0.00 | 500.00 |
| Concord | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Delano | 308.04 | 347.17 | 300.70 | 294.28 | 0.00 | 1,250.19 |
| Druid Hills | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 300.00 |
| Ebenezer | 54.00 | 42.00 | 53.00 | 0.00 | 48.00 | 197.00 |
| Fairview | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Fairview Tabernacle | 1,500.00 | 1,500.00 | 1,500.00 | 1,500.00 | 1,500.00 | 7,500.00 |
| Fellowship | 136.55 | 219.97 | 189.02 | 150.20 | 146.39 | 842.13 |
| Glenlock | 334.00 | 334.00 | 334.00 | 334.00 | 0.00 | 1,336.00 |
| Gregory's Chapel | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 200.00 | 500.00 |
| Hopewell Springs | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 500.00 | 0.00 | 500.00 |
| Howards Chapel | 0.00 | 0.00 | 300.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 300.00 |
| Island Creek | 300.00 | 300.00 | 300.00 | 0.00 | 600.00 | 1,500.00 |

| | | | | | | |
|---------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Lakeside | 0.00 | 0.00 | 300.00 | 300.00 | 0.00 | 600.00 |
| Long Ridge | 1,000.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1,000.00 |
| Lower Chilhowee | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Macedonia | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Madisonville, First | 416.67 | 416.67 | 416.67 | 416.67 | 0.00 | 1,666.68 |
| Maple Springs | 750.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 750.00 |
| Miller's Chapel | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 500.00 |
| Mt. Calvary | 60.08 | 70.50 | 108.99 | 54.99 | 106.71 | 401.27 |
| Mt. Isabella | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Mt. Zion | 679.70 | 584.55 | 471.60 | 579.87 | 760.53 | 3,076.25 |
| Murray's | 1,856.14 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1,856.14 |
| New Bethany | 295.61 | 496.45 | 332.51 | 275.34 | 431.25 | 1,831.16 |
| New Macedonia | 140.00 | 140.00 | 140.00 | 140.00 | 0.00 | 560.00 |
| New Providence | 807.73 | 0.00 | 1,727.97 | 555.15 | 908.45 | 3,999.30 |
| New Zion | 150.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 150.00 | 300.00 |
| North Sweetwater | 90.08 | 102.45 | 96.30 | 79.19 | 0.00 | 368.02 |
| Notchey Creek | 646.91 | 720.45 | 794.01 | 1,326.54 | 0.00 | 3,487.91 |
| Oak Grove | 782.48 | 0.00 | 587.74 | 645.70 | 0.00 | 2,015.92 |
| Oakland | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 200.00 | 777.00 | 1,077.00 |
| Old Pond Hill | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Old Sweetwater | 0.00 | 0.00 | 500.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 500.00 |
| Paint Rock | 110.00 | 110.00 | 110.00 | 110.00 | 110.00 | 550.00 |
| Piney Grove | 1,000.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1,000.00 |
| Poplar Bluff | 179.10 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 175.62 | 354.72 |
| Reed Springs | 2,483.49 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 2,483.49 |
| Rocky Springs | 200.00 | 400.00 | 400.00 | 400.00 | 400.00 | 1,800.00 |
| Rural Vale | 318.22 | 567.95 | 320.88 | 463.58 | 511.50 | 2,182.13 |
| Shady Grove | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 400.00 | 0.00 | 400.00 |
| Shelton Grove | 0.00 | 132.66 | 178.29 | 388.80 | 0.00 | 699.75 |
| Shoal Creek | 0.00 | 282.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 271.00 | 553.00 |
| South Madisonville | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 500.00 |
| Sweetwater, First | 350.00 | 350.00 | 350.00 | 350.00 | 350.00 | 1,750.00 |
| Tellico | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Tellico, First | 459.00 | 524.00 | 406.00 | 361.00 | 573.00 | 2,323.00 |
| Tevis Springs | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Towee Falls | 150.00 | 150.00 | 150.00 | 150.00 | 150.00 | 750.00 |
| Trinity | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Union Grove | 240.00 | 0.00 | 120.00 | 120.00 | 120.00 | 600.00 |
| Union Hall | 58.00 | 0.00 | 123.00 | 0.00 | 92.00 | 273.00 |
| Union McMinn | 400.00 | 400.00 | 400.00 | 400.00 | 400.00 | 2,000.00 |
| Unity | 0.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 |
| Upper Shady Grove | 0.00 | 50.00 | 50.00 | 50.00 | 50.00 | 200.00 |
| Vonore | 1,342.76 | 1,711.37 | 1,492.69 | 1,943.07 | 1,783.08 | 8,272.97 |
| Walnut Grove | 1,859.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1,859.00 |
| Watson Chapel | 166.67 | 0.00 | 333.34 | 166.67 | 166.67 | 833.35 |
| Westside | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Williamsburg | 65.20 | 31.76 | 92.63 | 31.06 | 48.36 | 269.01 |
| Miscellaneous/TBC | 782.00 | 782.00 | 782.00 | 782.00 | 782.00 | 3,910.00 |
| Misc AM | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Misc Interest | 21.63 | 23.13 | 23.00 | 16.13 | 0.00 | 83.89 |
| Total Income | 25,469.12 | 14,835.09 | 17,978.19 | 17,721.34 | 14,962.39 | 90,966.13 |
| Church/Mission | Oct. 2022 | Nov. 2022 | Dec. 2022 | Jan. 2023 | Feb. 2023 | Total |

CORPORATION ANNUAL REPORT FILING FOR CHURCHES:

If your church is incorporated, it is time for the *Tennessee Corporation Annual Report* to be made to the State of Tennessee. The renewal information for your *Annual Report* should be sent to the email address that is on file with the State of Tennessee for your church. Renewals for *Annual Reports* are filed electronically at <http://tnbear.tn.gov/>. If no email address is listed for your church, you can use the paperwork and Control Number from last year's *Annual Report* filing. For additional information or if you should have any questions, you can contact the State of Tennessee, Secretary of State at 615-741-2286.





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

The UPPER Room Christian Counseling Center seeks to give counsel, helps, guidance, support, and encouragement, for individuals, marriages and families. To speak to a counselor or to get more information, call 865-414-3269 or visit the link www.fairviewfamily.org.

YOUTH COMMITTEE:

CONNECT

JULY 13
 NOTCHEY CREEK

Ryan Keaton

Roger Williams & the AMRD

ORDINATIONS & ANNIVERSARIES



On September 25, 2022, **Jeff Pike** was licensed to preach the gospel by Towee Falls Baptist Church. We are praying God uses Jeff in a mighty way! (Pictured: Jeff Pike and wife, Kim).

On December 14, 2022, **Dwayne "Bugsy" Leming** was honored for serving 50 years in ministry. Bugsy currently serves as Pastor of Mt. Zion Baptist Church in the Loudon Association but has previously served in the Sweetwater Association for many years. Congratulations on this wonderful milestone. (Pictured: Monroe Co. Mayor Mitch Ingram, Dwayne Leming and State Representative Lowell Russell).



CHURCH NEWS

BIG CREEK
April 30: Guest Speaker, **Sam Blankenship** from Cleveland, TN will be preaching during the morning service.



May 28: Homecoming Service begins at 10:30 am. **Bloodline of Grace** will be singing; Lunch will be held in the Fellowship Hall after Service.

MADISONVILLE, FIRST

REVIVAL
 February 26-March 1
 First Baptist Church Madisonville

| | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| | | | | |
| SUNDAY AM Matt Greer | SUNDAY PM Dr. Terna Jordan | MONDAY Justin Pratt | TUESDAY Daryl Arnold | WEDNESDAY Chris Moore |

Revival will held at First Baptist February 26-March 1 (Sun Morn 10:30 am, 6:30 pm Nightly). Special music and testimonies, kids' activities and nursery provided during services, \$4 supper at 5:00 weeknights in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone invited!

MADISONVILLE, FIRST

Upcoming Youth and Children's activities:

- March 10-12: Tribe **DNOW** (call the church for info).
- March 24-25, 8:30 am: **Children's & Teen Consignment Sale** (benefits Children's Ministry summer events).
- April 1, 11:00 am: **Children's Easter Egg Hunt.**



First Baptist is also searching for a full-time Worship Pastor. For more information, visit our website at www.fbcmadisonville.org.

Resumes can be emailed to Pastor Chris Moore, at

chris@fbcmadisonville.org.

NOTCHEY CREEK

- February & March...Sunday Morning Worship Service, 8:30 am and 10:45 am
- Sunday School, 9:45 am
- Evening Worship Service, 6:00 pm
- Kids Easter Celebration & Egg Hunt, April 8th, 10:00 am
- Easter Sunrise Service, April 9th
- Easter Sunday, April 9th
Sunday Morning Worship Service, 10:45 am



Find us on Facebook, check us out on YouTube or visit our website

www.notcheycreekbaptist.org for additional dates and times for upcoming events!

POPLAR BLUFF



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!

SWEETWATER, FIRST



First Baptist Sweetwater is excited to welcome Rev. Jason Pounds as our Senior Pastor. He comes with his wife, Erika, and their four sons. We

look forward to how our Lord will show us ways to serve our community under Rev. Pounds' leadership.

UNION MCMINN

We just hosted our first ever **Men's Conference** and were blessed with great preaching, music, and a wonderful attendance. On Saturday, February 25th, we will host a



Women's Conference. All ladies are invited to attend.

Union McMinn Baptist Church
Ladies' Conference
Saturday, February 25th
10:00 am- 2:00 pm
Speakers: Sharon Webb, UMBC Missions Director
& Carmen Choat
Singers: Caci Leason and Carla Monroe
Lunch will be served.

UMBC
314 County Road 316
Niota, TN

1 JOHN 4:16
GOD IS LOVE
Whoever lives in love lives in
God, and God in them.

Sweetwater Baptist Association
 696 Anderson Street
 Madisonville, TN 37354

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 Madisonville, TN
 37354

ASSOCIATIONAL OFFICERS, 2022-2023

| | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| MODERATOR DARRELL CARDIN | VICE MODERATOR DAVID LANE | Associational Council Officers & Committee Chairman |
| Committee on Nominations David Jones, Chairman | Constitution Committee Albert Graser, Chairman | Evangelism Committee Steven McDonald, Chairman |
| Budget/Finance Committee Joe Samples, Chairman | Disaster Relief Director Jim Jollay | Mission Committee Jim Swabe, Chairman |
| Personnel Committee Shannon Croft, Chairperson | Scholarship Committee Howie White, Chairman | Trustees Pat McGinnis, Chairman |
| Music Director Phillip Johnson | Youth Council Josh Croft, Chairman | WMU/Ladies Director Rachel Thompson |
| | Vacation Bible School Directors Bryan & Kim Williamson | |

NEWS FROM AROUND THE ASSOCIATION

Welcome New Pastors
 Sweetwater First.....Jason Pounds



Director of Mission Visits/Miscellaneous:
 Union McMinn (Drive-Thru Christmas); Poplar Bluff (Podcast); Union Hall; Trinity; Mt. Isabella;
 Senior Adult Christmas Show; Pastor/Wife Christmas Banquet; New Providence; Cedar Fork; Tellico First;
 Upper Shady Grove; Fellowship; Sweetwater First; Shelton Grove (Revival); Westside; Shoal Creek; Poplar Bluff; Unity;
 Evangelism Rally (Dr. Jeff LaBorg); Walnut Grove; Watson Chapel; Towee Falls; Maple Springs; Israel

Please pray for our churches without pastors:
 Cane Creek, Murrays, New Zion, Tevis Springs



Sweetwater Baptist Association
Check Out Our Website
www.sweetwaterbaptistassociation.com
Visit us on Facebook
SBA Office Hours
 Monday-Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Upcoming Events/News “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” -- John 3:16

- March 1 High School Scholarship Applications due, *SBA Office*
 - March 5-12 Week of Prayer for North American Missions & Annie Armstrong Easter Offering
 - March 7 VBS Showcase, *SBA Office*, 6:30 p.m.
 - March 13 Scholarship Committee Meeting, *SBA Office*, 6:30 p.m.
 - March 16-18 TBMB WMU Missions Get-Together, *Brentwood*
 - March 24-25 YEC, East TN, *First Baptist Church, Concord, Knoxville*
 - March 26-April 1 *Spring Break, Monroe County Schools*
 - April 3 Missions Committee Meeting, *SBA Office*, 6:30 p.m.
 - April 7 Good Friday April 9 Easter
 - April 17 Executive Board Meeting, *Oak Grove*, 7:00 p.m.
 - May 1 WMU/Ladies Meeting, *Notchey Creek*, 7:00 p.m.
 - May 4 National Day of Prayer
 - May 14 Mother's Day
 - May 29 Memorial Day
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Mother's Day Offering for...



Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes

Father's Day Offering for...



Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes
 Honor Your Father with a Timely Gift
"It is more blessed to give than to receive." -- Acts 20:35


Next issue of newsletter will be **May/June**

The Upper Room Christian Counseling
Macy Small, M.A.
 112 Key Kile Rd, Sweetwater, TN 37874
865.414.3269

WMU/Ladies Group

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

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|------------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| March | New Providence | April | Oak Grove |
| May | Concord | June | Madisonville FBC |
| July | Lakeside | August | 411 Chapel |
| September | Mt. Zion | October | Notchey Creek |
| November | Bethlehem | December | New Bethany |
| January | Vonore | February | Rocky Springs |



Please contact the SBA Office at 423-442-6604 or email sweetwaterassoci@bellsouth.net or becky.jones@bellsouth.net if you plan to be part of...

2023 MISSION OPPORTUNITIES
 Guatemala, June 20-27 Iowa, July 15-22
 Limited spots and locations available

Please Note: Photographs are taken at all associational meetings and events, and will be used by the Association in newsletters, on website or social media sites.