

*The MESSENGER*  
of the  
*Sweetwater Baptist Association*



*"Churches on Mission Together"*  
Celebrating 193 years, 1830 – 2023

**SWEETWATER**  
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

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.

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

**Volume 13**

**May/June 2023**

**Number 62**

Southern Baptist Convention  
**Pastors' Conference  
& Annual Meeting**

Ernest N. Morial Convention Center  
New Orleans, LA

**June 11-14**

[www.sbcpc.net](http://www.sbcpc.net)

[www.sbcannualmeeting.net](http://www.sbcannualmeeting.net)



**Old Fashioned Prayer Meeting**  
*concord baptist church*



Located 3115 Upper Concord Rd, Ten Mile

**Monday, August 7**  
7:00 p.m.

**Isaac Sparks, Guest Preacher**  
*Pastor, Union Grove Baptist Church*

Special Music by:  
Monday Morning  
Pastors Conference Group

Sweetwater Baptist Association

**MEDIA CONFERENCE**

**Monday, August 28, 6:30 pm**

Madisonville, First Baptist Church, **TRIBE** Building

Located at 114 College Street, Madisonville

Conference Leader: **Dr. Scott Shepherd**

*TBMB, Worship & Music Specialist/Partnership Missions Specialist*



(Watch for further details!)

Sweetwater Baptist Association presents...

**CONNECT**

*Student Worship Rally*

**JULY 13 @ 7 PM**

**NOTCHEY CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH**



*Ryan Keaton*

*Roger Williams & the AMUQ*



Mark your calendar! ...Make plans to attend!

## Director of Missions

What a blessing our churches are in their mission giving! The *Guatemala Mission Offering* was a remarkable



success, and now totals over \$15,000.00. The Lamb of God congregation at Las Mercedes Baptist Church in Guatemala will be able to accomplish much of the three projects you helped to fund: construction of bathrooms, covering for existing water well, and installation of sanctuary floor. Your generosity is only surpassed by God's amazing grace.

Mission activities are moving forward as we journey through summer. A trip to Guatemala is planned for June, and teams are already formed. Mission volunteers from Bethlehem Baptist Church and Poplar Bluff Baptist Church will serve on the two teams we are sending to Guatemala this year. 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 blessings 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!

Approximately 70 people attended the *Pastors' Conference: Preachers Class* led by Dr. Roc Collins. The conference was hosted by Notchey Creek Baptist Church in February. This class replaced our Spring Biblical Studies Class usually offered at the Associational Office. Precious insight was gained by listening to Dr. Collins. His experience and enthusiasm for expounding on God's Word was encouraging, challenging, and delightful. We look forward to additional inspirational conferences in the future.

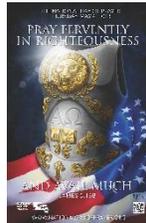
The *Vacation Bible School Showcase* was a tremendous success. The flexible hours and the convenient set-up allowed VBS leaders to move through at their own pace and ask questions concerning each VBS theme selection. Our goal and purpose is to walk with the churches of the Sweetwater Baptist Association helping them to reach the lost in their community. Vacation Bible School is a spring-board into the lives and homes of the unchurched in our neighborhoods. What a joy it is to witness a little one coming to confess Christ as Lord or welcome a new family into the congregation! The scripture speaks of the rejoicing in heaven over the one which was lost and now is found. Be a part of the celebration by providing Vacation Bible School in your church this year.

As usual the Scholarship Committee had a challenging time selecting this year's winners of the *Sweetwater Baptist Association Scholarship*. Each year numerous applications are received from high school seniors from our churches for this scholarship. Truthfully, all are deserving to be selected. However, only one student from each of the four areas can be chosen. That makes the process most difficult for the committee. Each application is thoroughly reviewed, checking that each required element is included. Special attention is given to the personal testimony of the student in the process of narrowing down the candidates toward the final selection. So, congratulations to those receiving this year's scholarships.

Concord Baptist Church in Meigs County will host the *Old Fashioned Prayer Meeting*. Isaac Sparks the pastor of Union Grove Baptist Church will be preaching. The special music will be provided by singers from the Monday morning Pastors' Conference. This promises to be an excellent night of prayer and worship. Be watching for updated information coming soon. The date for the meeting is Monday evening, August 7<sup>th</sup>.

Finally, please let me share with you an update on my health. I underwent surgery on March 8<sup>th</sup>. The surgery went well, and I was told there was no evidence the cancer had spread beyond the prostate. I returned home after the surgery to rest and recover for what is expected to be 8-12 weeks. Upon my follow-up visit to the doctor, I was advised the pathology report was back, and the cancer had not spread, and I would not have to do any follow-up treatments. Praise the Lord! Darnell and I want to thank you for the many prayers, calls, texts and cards. We are so very thankful to each and every one of you. Please continue to pray, as I continue to recuperate. May God bless each of you. --Tony

## Associational News/Events/Information



**NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER:** The annual *National Day of Prayer* for 2023 is on **Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup>**. The theme for this year is *Pray Fervently in Righteousness* and based on James 5:16b. Please plan now to participate in a *National Day of Prayer* event! For more information, visit [www.nationaldayofprayer.org](http://www.nationaldayofprayer.org).

### REPORT FROM EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING:

We want to thank Pastor Wayne Trentham and Oak Grove Baptist Church for the warm welcome and graciously hosting the Executive Board of the Sweetwater Baptist Association on Monday evening, April 17<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to all Executive Board Members who attended.



Moderator, Darrell Cardin did an outstanding job in presiding over the semi-annual business session. The agenda for the meeting included reports from the Director of Missions and Treasurer, as well as various associational reports. Here are highlights of reports and updates from the meeting.

### Director of Missions Report:

- Mission projects planned for Guatemala in June 2023
- **CONNECT** Youth Rally, July 13, Notchey Creek, 7:00 p.m.
- *Old Fashioned Prayer Meeting*, August 7, 7:00 p.m., Concord
- *Media Conference*, August 28, 6:30 p.m., Madisonville, First (TRIBE Bldg.)
- *Pastor/Family Picnic*, September 11, Notchey Creek, 6:30 p.m.
- *Annual Meeting*, October 23, New Providence, 6:30 p.m.
- *Senior Adult/Christmas Celebration and Pastor & Wife Christmas Banquet*, Vonore, December 4

### Financial Report October 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023:

- *Church Gifts* continue to be strong while operating expenses remain below budget; list of Church Gifts for October 2022 through March 2023 are provided in this issue of *The Messenger*

We appreciate the great leadership provided by Moderator Darrell Cardin, Vice Moderator David Lane, as well as the Associational Council/Officers and all Committees Members for serving the Churches of the Association.

**PASTORS  
CONFERENCE/  
PREACHERS**

**CLASS:** We want to thank Pastor Shane Johnston and Notchey Creek Baptist Church for hosting the February Preachers Class.



We also want to thank Dr. Roc Collins for leading the conference with a teaching of his book, *SIMPLE Preaching*. We know this information was beneficial to the representatives from the 20+ churches attending.

**CHURCH GIFTS:** We thank all the churches for the gifts you have shared that support the various budget ministry opportunities provided by the Sweetwater Baptist Association. It was reported to the *Executive Board* that total Church Gifts, October-March were \$115,264.00, with total budget expenses of \$95,310.86. Please note, the following report also includes church gifts received as of March 27, 2023. Gifts received after this date will appear in the next printed *SBA Church Gift Report*. Please review this information and contact the Associational Office at 442-6604 if you should have any questions. We thank you again for your support of the budget ministries of the Association.



**SBA Church Gifts: October 2022 – March 2023**

Church/Mission	Oct-Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Total
411 Chapel	1500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,500.00
Antioch	75.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	125.00
Beaty's Chapel	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bethlehem	3878.50	1154.50	1859.05	2225.00	0.00	9,117.05
Big Creek	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Calvary	284.00	68.00	99.00	83.70	0.00	534.70
Cane Creek	600.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	0.00	1,200.00
Cedar Fork	1670.48	464.03	694.80	483.91	0.00	3,313.22
Cedar Valley	2425.12	1611.35	813.65	655.03	0.00	5,505.15
Christianburg	588.32	0.00	655.10	0.00	0.00	1,243.42
Citico	171.90	170.25	51.55	77.20	0.00	470.90
Clifton	50.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	125.00
Community	222.60	68.97	86.13	95.46	0.00	473.16
Compromise	150.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	0.00	300.00
Conasauga	300.00	200.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	700.00
Concord	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,020.81	0.00	1,020.81
Delano	955.91	294.28	0.00	792.38	0.00	2,042.57
Druid Hills	200.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	400.00
Ebenezer	149.00	0.00	198.00	67.00	0.00	414.00
Fairview	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fairview Tabernacle	4500.00	1500.00	1500.00	1500.00	0.00	9,000.00
Fellowship	545.54	150.20	146.39	156.97	0.00	999.10
Glenlock	1002.00	334.00	334.00	334.00	0.00	2,004.00
Gregory's Chapel	300.00	0.00	200.00	100.00	0.00	600.00
Hopewell Springs	0.00	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
Howards Chapel	300.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	400.00
Island Creek	900.00	0.00	900.00	0.00	0.00	1,800.00
Lakeside	300.00	300.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	600.00
Long Ridge	1000.00	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	200.00	0.00	200.00
Madisonville, First	1250.01	416.67	416.67	416.67	0.00	2,500.02
Maple Springs	750.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	750.00
Miller's Chapel	300.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	600.00
Mt. Calvary	239.57	54.99	106.71	90.15	0.00	491.42
Mt. Isabella	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mt. Zion	1735.85	579.87	760.53	834.21	0.00	3,910.46
Murray's	1856.14	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,856.14
New Bethany	1124.57	275.34	431.25	704.47	0.00	2,535.63
New Macedonia	420.00	140.00	200.00	200.00	0.00	960.00
New Providence	2535.70	555.15	908.45	957.60	0.00	4,956.90
New Zion	150.00	0.00	150.00	300.00	0.00	600.00

North Sweetwater	288.83	79.19	102.92	94.00	0.00	564.94
Notchey Creek	2161.37	1326.54	1176.96	809.91	0.00	5,474.78
Oak Grove	1370.22	645.70	437.32	352.55	0.00	2,805.79
Oakland	100.00	200.00	777.00	0.00	0.00	1,077.00
Old Pond Hill	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Old Sweetwater	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
Paint Rock	330.00	110.00	110.00	110.00	0.00	660.00
Piney Grove	1000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00
Poplar Bluff	179.10	0.00	175.62	162.27	0.00	516.99
Reed Springs	2483.49	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,483.49
Rocky Springs	1000.00	400.00	400.00	0.00	0.00	1,800.00
Rural Vale	1207.05	463.58	511.50	494.82	0.00	2,676.95
Shady Grove	0.00	400.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	400.00
Shelton Grove	310.95	388.80	184.36	0.00	0.00	884.11
Shoal Creek	282.00	0.00	271.00	0.00	0.00	553.00
South Madisonville	300.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	600.00
Sweetwater, First	1050.00	350.00	350.00	350.00	0.00	2,100.00
Tellico	0.00	0.00	1200.00	0.00	0.00	1,200.00
Tellico, First	1389.00	361.00	573.00	492.00	0.00	2,815.00
Tevis Springs	0.00	0.00	0.00	25.00	0.00	25.00
Towee Falls	450.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	0.00	900.00
Trinity	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Union Grove	360.00	120.00	240.00	0.00	0.00	720.00
Union Hall	181.00	0.00	92.00	66.00	0.00	339.00
Union McMinn	1200.00	400.00	400.00	400.00	0.00	2,400.00
Unity	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
Upper Shady Grove	100.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	0.00	250.00
Vonore	4546.82	1943.07	1783.08	1422.17	0.00	9,695.14
Walnut Grove	1859.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,859.00
Watson Chapel	500.01	166.67	166.67	166.67	0.00	1,000.02
Westside	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Williamsburg	189.59	31.06	48.36	39.23	0.00	308.24
TBMB	2346.00	782.00	782.00	782.00	0.00	4,692.00
Misc AM	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Misc Interest	67.76	16.13	15.90	15.11	0.00	114.90
Total Income	58,282.40	17,721.34	21,208.97	18,051.29	0.00	115,264.00

**October 2022 - March 2023  
Disaster Relief Funds**

Tellico (Ballplay)	3,000.00
Notchey Creek, FLA Hurricane	3,007.00
Vonore, Seekers Sunday School Class, FLA Hurricane	500.00
Steekee Creek, FLA Hurricane	500.00
Bobby and Charlotte Best	100.00
Anonymous, KY Floods	100.00
Anonymous, KY Coat Fund	100.00
Anonymous, FLA Hurricane	100.00



**Services Include:**

- ✓ Premarital & Marriage Counseling
- ✓ Children, Teen, & Family Counseling
- ✓ Conferences, Retreats & Classes
- ✓ Divorce & Grief Recovery
- ✓ Individual counseling for stress, addictions, anger, self-worth & coping skills

Acts 2 tells of a group of people gathered in an upper room. These people were scared, confused, hopeless, and looking for direction. But then, the Holy Spirit came, and these broken people were filled with God's love, power, and direction. Their lives were forever changed.....and your life can be changed to!

The **UPPER Room Christian Counseling Center** seeks to give advice, encouragement, and help for individuals and families. Counseling is available for support and guidance through your struggle. Call for hope & help today. **865-414-3269**

## 2023 SBA HIGH SCHOOL

**SCHOLARSHIPS:** We are excited to announce the names of the recipients of the 2023 SBA High School Scholarships. The Scholarship Committee is always faced with the challenging task of making the selections each year, as all applicants are deserving. Students receiving the 2023 SBA High School Scholarship are:



**Emma Marie Wilson**

Union McMinn Baptist Church  
Berean Christian High School



**Sarah Beth Lynn**

Maple Springs Baptist Church  
Tellico Plains High School



**Ava Violet Fitch**

Sweetwater, First Baptist Church  
Sweetwater High School



**Marshall David Lane**

Citico Baptist Church  
Sequoyah High School

Each of these students were awarded \$500.00 cash scholarships on behalf of the churches of the Sweetwater Baptist Association. We want to offer our congratulations to these, as well as to all the high school seniors that will be graduating from the churches across our Association. Thank you also to the churches for providing this scholarship for our young people.



### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL NEWS:

Vacation Bible School time has begun! Thank you to those that attended the first-ever VBS Showcase at the Sweetwater Baptist Association!

Five (5) VBS themes (with kits for each) were on display to review. This gave an opportunity to look at the different options that were available and decide which theme might work best for your church. Then best of all, the 5 VBS kits were given away at the end of March. Congratulations to the following churches who each won a 2023 VBS kit. Sampler kits were awarded to:

- Big Creek - *Twists & Turns* (LifeWay)
- Oakland - *Stellar* (Group)
- Old Sweetwater - *Keepers of the Kingdom* (Answers in Genesis)
- South Madisonville - *Hero Hotline* (Cokesbury)
- Walnut Grove - *Ready, Set, Move* (Orange)

If your church needs assistance with planning or conducting Vacation Bible School this year, please contact the Association Office. We are here to help!

Please send the SBA Office 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

### Once your VBS is over, please send the SBA Office the following:

- Link-up supplies for other churches to use
- VBS Report (Total Enrollment, Average Attendance, Professions of Faith)



The Ladies Ministry/WMU Meeting will be held on May 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 pm. Notchey Creek Baptist Church in Madisonville will host the meeting. The church will be offering a light meal at 6:00 p.m. prior to the meeting. The guest speaker for the evening will be



**SBA  
WMU/Ladies  
Ministry**

### WMU/LADIES MEETING

**Monday, May 1, 7:00 pm**

Light Meal @ 6:00 p.m.

Notchey Creek Baptist Church  
5529 New Hwy 68, Madisonville

former IMB missionary, Kim Cruse. Kim served in the Philippines for a number of years and is currently serving the

Tennessee WMU. Kim will be returning to the Philippines this summer and to aid in this mission work, the WMU love offering will benefit this ministry. Ladies are also asked to bring Amazon or Walmart Gift Cards which will be used to purchase items needed for the work in the Philippines. We look forward to seeing everyone on Monday, May 1<sup>st</sup>. 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](mailto:racheljthompson20@outlook.com).

*Rachel Thompson, Associational WMU/Ladies Director*

I ♥ VBS



**Funds received for GUATEMALA MISSION OFFERING**

**Las Mercedes Baptist Church**

Cane Creek.....	200.00
Cedar Fork.....	1,000.00
Clifton.....	200.00
Concord.....	200.00
Hopewell Springs.....	3,144.50
Howards Chapel.....	200.00
Lakeside.....	329.00
Long Ridge.....	801.00
Macedonia.....	200.00
Mt. Zion.....	570.00
New Macedonia.....	1,945.00
Natchey Creek.....	1,616.00
Oak Grove.....	795.00
Rural Vale.....	854.15
Tevis Springs.....	100.00
Union Grove.....	288.00
Walnut Grove.....	542.00
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

Travel Security, the Tennessee Baptist Mission Board requires all participants to complete online evangelistic, cross-cultural, and child protection training. Go to <https://fsa.thinkific.com/courses/traveling-saint-online> to complete FSA training.

**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

**UKRAINE:** Please let me thank you for your prayers, support, and ongoing relief for Ukraine. Thank you to the many churches that have always been generous supporters of missions and have already shared in ministering to those deeply affected and severely impacted by the crisis in Ukraine.



Let me ask you to please continue to pray for Ukraine! Please pray that the Words of Christ will be shared with the people of Ukraine, seeds will be sown, and souls will be saved even during these difficult times. Please pray for my family and friends that reside in Ukraine. Pray for the churches, pastors, congregations, and people that remain in Ukraine as they assist refugees displaced from their homes and villages. Please continue praying for the Ukraine nation and the people of Ukraine!

If you need assistance with the distribution of gifts to share in the needs of those that minister in Ukraine, I will be happy to help facilitate this process. Please feel free to contact me at 423-420-9253 or through the Sweetwater Baptist Association office at 423-442-6604. --**Svitlana Self**, Resident Interpreter

**JUST AN UPDATE:**

The beautiful *Isaiah 117* house for Monroe/McMinn County is almost ready! Pouring of the concrete has started and work on the fence and sod



are both scheduled. Concrete, fencing, sod, and landscaping should all be complete (pending weather) in two weeks, and then a ribbon cutting date is planned for April 12<sup>th</sup>! The house is located at the intersection of County Road 517 and 519 in Englewood. If you would like more information about this project, please call Monroe County Expansion Coordinator, Jennifer Collins at 423-518-3760 EXT 617 or email [jennifer.collins@isaiah117house.com](mailto:jennifer.collins@isaiah117house.com).

**SBA MEDIA CENTER:**

The Associational Office has over 45 Bible Studies that are available to be checked out. Most are DVD Studies and include Women's Studies, Men's Studies, Deacon Studies, Evangelism, Student Bible Studies, Family Studies, and more.



**GUATEMALA:** The Tennessee Baptist Mission Board (TBMB) and Guatemala Baptist Convention have confirmed plans for the Sweetwater Baptist Association mission project in *Guatemala for 2023*.



We are excited that a team from Bethlehem and Birchfield (Blount County) will be returning to continue on-going mission work with Pastor Hugo Barrios at the *Jesus is the Way Baptist Church* at El Cañal. A second team from Poplar Bluff will be working in a new ministry area. This team will visit ongoing work sites to see ministry work in process (medical clinic, food give-away, etc). In addition to visiting the *Lamb of God Baptist Church* where Pastor Fred Aguilar Osoria serves, this team will also visit a new area for future planned ministry/evangelism opportunities. Various ministry opportunities for the teams include: (1) Ladies Bible Study (2) Mens Bible Study (3) Sports clinic/evangelism (4) Vacation Bible School (5) Door-to-door Witnessing (6) Evangelism, Crusade, Revival. The project dates are **June 20-27**.

According to the US Embassy in Guatemala, there are no entry or exit requirements for COVID. Therefore, there are no COVID shots or testing required at this time. Please keep in mind that the Guatemala government could always change their mind before June. However, we do not anticipate any change in the requirements unless there is a large outbreak of COVID. Mission volunteers must have a valid passport, as well as any required vaccinations from their doctor or health department.

**FORT SHERMAN 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



**YOUTH COMMITTEE:**

Sweetwater Baptist Association presents...

# CONNECT

Student Worship Rally

## JULY 13 @ 7 PM

NOTCHEY CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH



Ryan Keaton



Roger Williams & the AMU



# CHURCH NEWS

**CANE CREEK:** We will be ordaining Jeff Dalton on Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm. Jeff is being called as Youth Pastor of Poplar Bluff Baptist Church. All ordained men are invited to join the presbytery.



**FAIRVIEW TABERNACLE:** "Heart of Anna Ladies Spring Conference" will be Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> from 9:00 am till Noon.

The guest speaker will be Jennifer Hand and the topic will be "My Yes is on the Table: Moving from Fear to Faith." All ladies are welcome; light snacks and door prizes will be available. Love offering will be taken for speaker and worship leaders. We are also collecting Amazon gift cards or monetary donations for Isaiah 117 House.

**LAKESIDE:** Upcoming Events...

- April 30, 6:00 pm: Singing "His By Grace"
- May 7, 10:30 am: Decoration, Singing "The Carters"
- July 30, 6:00 pm: Singing "The Hymnsmen"



**MACEDONIA:** We are having Revival services, April 23-28 at 7:00 pm. Evangelists are Ralph Patton and James Orr. Everyone is invited!



**MADISONVILLE, FIRST:** We are searching for a full-time Worship Pastor. For more information, visit our website at [www.fbcmadisonville.org](http://www.fbcmadisonville.org). Resumes can be emailed to Pastor Chris Moore, at [chris@fbcmadisonville.org](mailto:chris@fbcmadisonville.org).



**NEW MACEDONIA:** We will be having a Deacon Ordination on Sunday, April 23 at 2:00 pm. Deacon Candidates are Kyle Allmond, Ben Curtis and Taylor Morris. All ordained men are invited to join the presbytery.



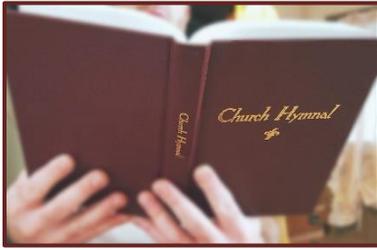
**NEW PROVIDENCE:** Everyone is invited to participate in our "Second Annual Baby Shower" for the Full Circle Medical Center for Women. The facility is located in Athens, TN and provides private, compassionate care for expectant parents. The shower will be held on Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 9:45 am. We are located at 8575 New Hwy 68, Tellico Plains. To drop off items, contact Eva Valentine @ 423-404-2614 or Lauren Valentine @ 423-295-4482.



## VBS Dates

(as reported by the church)

Date	Time	Church	Theme
May 21-26	6:30-8:30	Oak Grove	Safari Park
May 21-25		Shelton Grove	Stompers & Chompers
May 30-June 2		Poplar Bluff	
June 3		Citico	
June 3-9	6:30-9:00	Bethlehem	
June 4-9		Big Creek	Twists & Turns
June 4-9	6:30-8:30	Mt. Zion	
June 4-8	6:00-8:30	Rocky Springs	Keepers of the Kingdom
June 4-9		South Madisonville	
June 4-9	6:00-8:30	Union McMinn	
June 5-9		Conasauga	
June 5-9	6:00-8:30	New Macedonia	Cruise with Jesus
June 5-9		Sweetwater, FBC	Sports Camp
June 11-16	6:30-8:30	Island Creek	Keepers of the Kingdom
June 11-16	6:00-8:30	New Bethany	Twists & Turns
June 11-16		Old Sweetwater	
June 11-14		Trinity	
June 12-16		Howard's Chapel	
June 12-16	6:00-8:00	Rural Vale	Twists & Turns
June 12-17	6:00-8:30	Vonore Baptist	Twists & Turns
June 18-23	6:00-9:00	New Providence	
June 19-23	6:30-8:30	Lakeside	God Likes People
June 19-23		New Zion	
June 19-23		Reed Springs	
June 25-30		Union Grove	
June 25-29	6:00-8:30	Walnut Grove	
July 16-20		Glenlock	Stellar
July 23-27	6:00-8:00	Long Ridge	Armour of God/Bible Boot Camp
July 23-28		Notchey Creek	Keepers of the Kingdom



**NOTCHEY CREEK:** Notchey Creek Baptist Church in conjunction with the Monroe County Department of Tourism will be hosting a **RED BACK CHURCH HYMNAL SINGING** on

**Wednesday, April 26th, 6:00-8:00 p.m.** at Notchey Creek Baptist Church, 5529 New Highway 68, Madisonville. All churches/choir members are invited to attend and take part. Choir Leaders/Music Directors that wish to participate in leading songs during the service should contact Sharon Brookshire-Jones by text at 423-519-9609 or email [s.brookshire@yahoo.com](mailto:s.brookshire@yahoo.com). Also, please advise if your church will be providing piano/organist(s). This information is needed as soon as possible.

**OLD SWEETWATER:** On February 19<sup>th</sup>, we held our first service and building dedication in the new sanctuary. We praise God for all His blessings!



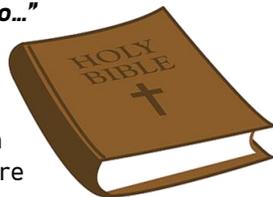
**POPLAR BLUFF:** Please join Hosts, Roman Hamilton and Paul Chapman on a weekly podcast called "Truth Revival." New episodes are released every Tuesday at 10:00 am.



our "Grill Masters" at the church. There will also be inflatables, corn hole tournament, face painting and more.

**RURAL VALE:** We will host a free community event on **Saturday, April 29, from Noon until 4:00 PM.** We will be serving brisket, burgers, pulled pork, chicken, etc. prepared by

**SOUTH MADISONVILLE: "Add to..." Academy** is continuing each Thursday through the month of April. Light meal is provided at 5:45 pm, Classes are at 6:30 pm and 7:30 pm. Call for more information or to make dinner reservations 423-371-5806. The men's studies include: "Bible Preservation" taught at 6:30 by Willie O'Dell; and "Ministering the Word" (Simple Preaching) taught at 7:30 by Shane Johnston. The ladies' classes are led by Debbie Cullen and include "Gleaning Wisdom from the Book of Proverbs" at 6:30 pm and "New Birth: The Story and the Certificate" at 7:30 pm.



**TEVIS SPRINGS:** We are happy to announce we have called a new **Pastor, Sam Baines.** Sam comes to us from South Madisonville Baptist Church. An ordination date will be announced soon!



**UNION GROVE:** Our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual "Revival on the Hill" will be **July 12-15.** Everyone is invited!



**UNION MCMINN:** Upcoming Events...

- April 22, 3:00 pm: UMBC VBS Training
- May 14: Mother's Day Offering for Children's Home
- May 30: Adult Visitation for VBS
- May 31: Youth Visitation for VBS
- June 10-17: UMBC 2023 Youth Mission Trip

## ORDINATIONS & LICENSINGS



On Sunday, March 19, 2023, Jeff Pike was ordained into the Gospel Ministry at **Towee Falls Baptist Church.** 65 ordained men were in attendance to make up the Presbytery. Jeff has been called to serve as Pastor of **Salem Baptist Church** in Greenback.



Sam Baines announced his calling to preach on August 31, 2022. **South Madisonville Baptist Church** licensed him to preach on February 15, 2023, and presented him with his License and a new Bible on February 19, 2023.



## Sweetwater Baptist Association

696 Anderson Street  
Madisonville, TN 37354

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### ASSOCIATIONAL OFFICERS, 2022-2023

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

### NEWS FROM AROUND THE ASSOCIATION

#### Director of Mission Visits/Miscellaneous:

Israel; Tellico (Ballplay); Shady Grove; Union-McMinn; Vonore; Williamsburg;  
411 Chapel; Tevis Springs; Old Sweetwater (Building Dedication); Tevis Springs; Antioch; New Zion;  
Madisonville First (Revival); Poplar Bluff; Cane Creek; Big Creek; Surgery; Surgery Recovery;  
*Online:* Notchey Creek; New Bethany; Conasauga; Delano; Cedar Fork; Cedar Valley; Rocky Springs; Christianburg

#### Please pray for our churches without pastors:

Calvary, Cane Creek, Murrays, New Zion, Tellico (Ballplay)



## Upcoming

“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

May 1.....WMU/Ladies Meeting, *Natchey Creek*, 7:00 p.m.  
May 4.....National Day of Prayer  
May 14.....Mother's Day  
May 29.....Memorial Day, Office Closed, Holiday  
June 11-14.SBA Annual Meeting & Pastor's Conference, *New Orleans*  
June 18.....Father's Day  
June 20-27 ..... Guatemala Mission Project  
July 3-4 ..Office Closed, Independence Day  
July 10 .....Nominating Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m., *SBA Office*  
July 11.....Budget Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m., *SBA Office*  
July 13 .....CONNECT, *Natchey Creek*, 7:00 p.m.  
July 31 .....Youth Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m., *SBA Office*  
August 7...Old Fashioned Prayer Meeting, 7:00 p.m., *Concord*  
August 28 Media Conference, 6:30 p.m., *Madisonville First*



Pastor's Conference does not meet in June!  
Pastor's Conference continues...July 10<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m.  
SBA Office in Madisonville

### Mother's Day Offering for...



Tennessee Baptist  
Children's Homes

### Father's Day Offering for...



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

Pray for 2023 Volunteer Mission Team serving in ...  
Guatemala June 20-27

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

Next newsletter will be the July/August issue.

### WMU/Ladies Group

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

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



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.