

The MESSENGER of the Sweetwater Baptist Association

"Churches on Mission Together"
Celebrating 192 years, 1830 – 2022



In This Issue:

- *Director of Missions
- *Biblical Studies Class
- *Israel 2023 Tour
- *Pastor & Family Picnic
- *Pastor/Wife Christmas Banquet
- *Senior Adult Christmas Show
- *Church Gifts thru July 25
- *2022 Annual Meeting Program
- *Proposed Budget Changes 2022-23
- *Proposed Budget 2022-2023
- *ACP/Messenger Cards
- *Ukraine Update
- *WMU/Ladies News
- *October Pastor Appreciation Month
- *Golden Offering
- *The Summit
- *Upper Room Christian Counseling
- *Youth News
- *Ordinations/Anniversaries
- *Church News
- *TBMB Regional Worship Summits
- *Upcoming Events
- *News from Around the Association

Check Out Our Website:
www.sweetwaterbaptistassociation.com
Find us on **Facebook**

TONY RUTHERFORD

Director of Missions
tonyrutherford@bellsouth.net
423-337-1353 (cell)

SHERI STEPHENS

Administrative Assistant
sweetwaterassoci@bellsouth.net
423-442-6604 (office)

BECKY JONES

Ministry Assistant
becky.jones@bellsouth.net
423-442-6605 (fax)

SVITLANA SELF

Resident Interpreter Volunteer

Volume 12

August/September/October, 2022

Number 58

SWEETWATER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
2022 Pastor..Deacon..& Wives Conference
Monday, August 29; 6:30 p.m.

New Bethany Baptist Church, Sweetwater

SCHEDULE: 6:30 p.m. Meal (reservations required)
Immediately following meal... Dismiss to Breakout Sessions

BREAKOUT SESSIONS AND BREAKOUT LEADERS

Dr. Steve Holt..... TBMB, Church Services Director

Pastors..Deacons

Nancy Duggin..... Murfreesboro

Pastor Wives..Deacon Wives

- ✓ Time of Fellowship, Learning & Encouragement
- ✓ Free Conference (meal reservation required)
- ✓ For more information, contact SBA Office
Phone: 423-442-6604 or 423-442-6605
Email: sweetwaterassoci@bellsouth.net or becky.jones@bellsouth.net

Old Fashioned Prayer Meeting

Old Sweetwater Baptist Church

Sweetwater, TN

Monday, August 8
7:00 p.m.



Special Music by
The Big Creek Singers



Guest Preacher
Dr. Lon Shoopman
Pastor, Glenlock Baptist Church

**EVERYONE
INVITED!**

SWEETWATER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
2022 Annual Meeting
Monday, October 17

**ONE DAY
TWO SESSIONS!**
Program subject to change

Hosted by: **Bethlehem Baptist Church, Madisonville**

Theme: *Our Heritage Lives On* Deuteronomy 6:5-7

● **Business Session: 6:30 p.m.**

- 6:00 Associational Council Report Video Presentation
- 6:30 Greetings and Prayer Director of Missions, Tony Rutherford
- Memorial Report Video Presentation
- Video Message from Executive Director-Treasurer, TBMB ..Dr. Randy Davis
- TBMB Representative
- Welcome and Prayer Pastor, Zad Tomberlin
- Presentation of Gavel Director of Missions
- Call to Order Moderator, Michael McLemore
- Business Session Moderator
- Constitution of Body Becky Jones
- Appointment of Committee on Nominations Moderator
- Election of Officers Vice-Moderator, Darrell Cardin
- Committee on Nominations Carroll Hamilton
- Treasurer's Report Sheri Stephens
- Presentation of Budget Jonas Turpin
- Director of Missions Report/Presentations Tony Rutherford
- Presentation of 2023 Calendar/Recommendations . Director of Missions
- Adjourn for Worship Vice-Moderator

● **Brief Intermission*Worship Session following Business Session**

- Congregational Hymn Bethlehem Baptist Church
- Welcome and Prayer Vice-Moderator, Darrell Cardin
- Offertory Hymn Bethlehem Baptist Church
- Special Music Information to be provided by Moderator
- Message Moderator, Michael McLemore
- Benediction Director of Missions

ATTENTION CHURCH CLERKS:

- Annual Church Profile packets are available for pickup
- Annual Church Profiles (ACP's) and Messenger Cards must be completed and returned to the *SBA Office* by October 1st

Director of Missions

The Vacation Bible Schools of 2022 provided many wonderful experiences! More schools were held



this year, as the Covid virus was having less impact on our church events. Several churches have reported excellent attendance and many professions of faith have been noted, as well. We had the privilege to visit many Vacation Bible Schools this year. We apologize we were unable to visit all of the schools at the churches. As you pack away the decorations, please remember to complete your VBS report at <https://vbs.lifeway.com/vbs-2022-church-report> (no matter what theme you used this year).



June of 2022 also allowed us to return to the mission field. Four of our mission ambassadors served eight days in Guatemala. It was an immense pleasure to represent our 74 churches to the wonderful people of Guatemala who are eager to receive Christ as their Lord and Savior. On

this trip, 2 people prayed to begin their relationship with Jesus, and there were several rededications. Also, the mission team participated in the baptism of two new converts. Several home visits were made, leaving a message of God's love with numerous potential brothers and sisters. Two nights were given to revival services where the building was packed each evening. A construction project was completed with the pouring of concrete and the painting of a kitchen area for the church at El Canal. This group was truly blessed to serve alongside people in Guatemala who are eager to worship, serve, and demonstrate the love of God.



July provided the opportunity for 21 people from 6 different churches to serve in Iowa together. In West Branch, Iowa, Vacation Bible School was conducted, construction projects were completed, and a revival was provided for the

people of Downey Baptist Church. Laboring in love to strengthen the Church of Christ is a noble and worthy challenge. It is often eye opening for people from a "Bible-believing" south to travel and work with Christians in the mid-western states. While we often have one or two revivals a year in our churches, yet three years ago was the first revival in Downey Baptist Church in 80+ years. Often the question is asked, "Why would you come so far, spend so much, and give so graciously to strangers?" The answer is Christ!



As we turn our attention to August, the *Old-Fashioned Prayer Meeting* will be held at Old Sweetwater Baptist Church on Highway 11 in Sweetwater. Dr. Lon Shoopman will be preaching the message, while the Big Creek Singers will provide the special music.

This is a time to worship, pray, and seek God's direction for the churches of the Sweetwater Baptist Association. The 74 churches that make up the Association have agreed to provide missions and evangelism to our community. To accomplish this mandate from God, we need to earnestly pray God's Spirit to saturate His churches. We desire your prayer and willing heart in this endeavor. Mark your calendar for August 8th at 7:00 p.m. and plan to join us for this meeting.

The *Pastor, Deacon, and Wife Conference* is quickly approaching in August, as well! We encourage your participation in this important opportunity. The presentation of a strong Pastor/Deacon relationship promotes a healthy environment for the church to prosper. The team concept of serving the people in their spiritual journey will keep the flock together. Jesus warned us about the lambs that wonder away. By working together, the Pastor and Deacon can prevent "straying lambs." By including the wives in this meeting, the communication between spouses can aid in the care ministry of the congregation. Many times, the wife is invited into family situations to assist in ministering alongside her deacon or pastor husband. The quicker the leadership can provide a caring touch; the quicker healing can begin. Pastors and deacon chairmen have already received this conference information; and are encouraged to attend. Pastors, please call the SBA Office with the registration number who will attend from your church. It will be our honor to serve you, your deacons and wives on this evening!

For September, please let me encourage pastors to please bring your families to the *Pastor/Family Picnic*. It will be held at the Notchey Creek Pavilion on Monday, September 12th at 6:30 pm. It will be a joy and privilege to fellowship with you and your family!

As I close, don't forget this important October date and meeting! Bethlehem Baptist Church in Madisonville will host our *Annual Meeting, 2022* on Monday evening, October 17th. The Business Session will begin at 6:30 p.m. with the Worship Service immediately following. Our Moderator, Michael McLemore will bring the message for the evening. Mark your calendar and make plans to attend the *2022 Annual Meeting of the Sweetwater Baptist Association*.

August, September and October! We have many opportunities to gather together over the next few months as a family of Churches in the Sweetwater Baptist Association. I look forward to seeing you!

--Tony

BIBLICAL STUDIES CLASS: The next *Biblical Studies Class* at the Sweetwater Baptist Association is scheduled to begin on **September 6th**. The 8-week study taught by Tony Rutherford will be:

- 2 weeks: A Tour of Israel**
- 6 weeks: The Lord's Prayer**



This will be a non-credit course and the cost of the class will be \$20.00 per person. Participants taking part in the upcoming 2023 Israel tour are especially encouraged to attend this class.

Please contact the Sweetwater Baptist Association at 442-6604 for additional information or if you are interested in taking this class. Please be sure and mark your calendar for the next class.

SWEETWATER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION & YAEL ADVENTURE...ISRAEL 2023

TOUR: Hosted by Tony Rutherford: We still have a few seats available for the *Israel 2023* tour! Please contact our office immediately if you are interested in being part of this group. The dates of the tour are January 23-February 1.



people laugh about life and given HOPE through print. Also, having attended Liberty University with a full music scholarship, Scott is an accomplished vocalist has traveled the U.S. and abroad to 26 countries.

You will recognize Scott from appearing on Mark Lowry's videos and he has written comedy for Mark while under contract with Word Records. For a year, Scott appeared weekly on the national television show, "The Mark & Kathy Show," with Mark Lowry and Kathy Troccoli. Along with his weekly appearances, he has been a guest on numerous religious television shows.

We know you will not want to miss this special presentation! Plan to bring your church groups. Everyone is invited to this free, special Christmas Show!



PASTOR & FAMILY PICNIC: Pastors and their families are invited to join us for the Sweetwater Baptist Association, *Pastor & Family Picnic* on **Monday evening, September 12th at 6:30 p.m.** It will be held

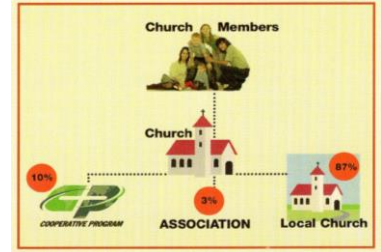
at the Notchey Creek Baptist Church, Pavilion Picnic Area. Reservations are required for the meal. Please contact the SBA Office at 442-6604 by September 1st to confirm a number in your family for the picnic or for additional information.

PASTOR AND WIFE CHRISTMAS BANQUET:

The *Annual Pastor and Wife Christmas Banquet* will be held on **Monday evening, December 5th at 6:30 p.m.** The catered meal/banquet will be held at Vonore Baptist Church, Family Life Center in Vonore. In addition to pastors and their wives, our invitation includes retired pastors, associational officers and leadership, as well as their spouses.



CHURCH GIFTS: We are so thankful to the churches for the gifts you have shared with the Sweetwater Baptist Association. The church gifts support the various budget opportunities



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

SBA Church Gifts through July 25, 2022

Scott Davis will be our special guest for the *Pastor/Wife Christmas Banquet*. Due to limited space and to help plan the meal, reservations are required. Please call the SBA Office at 442-6604 or email the number attending to becky.jones@bellsouth.net or sweetwaterassoci@bellsouth.net.

Church	Total	Church	Total
411 Chapel	0.00	New Macedonia	1,120.00
Antioch	225.00	New Providence	6,910.62
Beaty's Chapel	0.00	New Zion	100.00
Bethlehem	12,005.70	North Sweetwater	1,060.34
Big Creek	0.00	Notchey Creek	4,915.20
Calvary	967.41	Oak Grove	4,335.30
Cane Creek	2,000.00	Oakland	400.00
Cedar Fork	4,855.50	Old Pond Hill	175.00
Cedar Valley	8,004.01	Old Sweetwater	1,000.00
Christianburg	952.97	Paint Rock	1,100.00
Citico	884.80	Piney Grove	0.00
Clifton	250.00	Poplar Bluff	2,691.60
Community	786.89	Reed Springs	3,448.00
Compromise	500.00	Rocky Springs	3,600.00
Conasauga	1,000.00	Rural Vale	4,615.01
Concord	0.00	Shady Grove	500.00
Delano	3,310.68	Shelton Grove	2,062.57
Druid Hills	1,000.00	Shoal Creek	821.00
Ebenezer	662.50	South Madisonville	1,000.00
Fairview	0.00	Sweetwater First	3,500.00
Fairview Tabernacle	15,000.00	Tellico	1,200.00
Fellowship	1,616.51	Tellico First	5,249.00
Glenlock	4,008.00	Tevis Springs	100.00
Gregory's Chapel	1,000.00	Towee Falls	1,500.00
Hopewell Springs	1,271.00	Trinity	0.00
Howards Chapel	171.07	Union Grove	1,200.00
Island Creek	3,300.00	Union Hall	451.00
Lakeside	600.00	Union McMinn	4,000.00
Long Ridge	1,000.00	Unity	0.00
Lower Chillhowee	400.00	Upper Shady Grove	500.00
Macedonia	240.00	Vonore	16,841.25
Madisonville, First	4,166.70	Walnut Grove	1,859.00
Maple Springs	500.00	Watson Chapel	1,870.02
Miller's Chapel	1,000.00	Westside	0.00
Mt. Calvary	1,015.98	Williamsburg	363.92
Mt. Isabella	0.00	TBMB	7,038.00
Mt. Zion	5,313.38	Miscellaneous	238.93
Murray's	1,778.00	Total	\$169,469.87
New Bethany	3,918.01		

SCOTT DAVIS *In person*
Monday, December 5, 10:30 am.
Senior Adult Christmas Show
 Vonore Baptist Church, Vonore
Everyone Invited



SENIOR ADULT CHRISTMAS SHOW: Make plans now to see, **Christian singer, comedian, and author, SCOTT DAVIS** while he is in our area. The Sweetwater Baptist Association will feature Scott as he shares at our annual *Senior Adult Christmas Show*. This event will be held at **Vonore Baptist Church on Monday, December 5th**

at 10:30 a.m. This is a free event; and all ages are invited.

You will not want to miss Scott Davis in person on **Monday morning, December 5th!** Scott is known for his family-oriented Christian comedy that audiences of all ages are able to relate. He takes life and highlights the funny side. As a best-selling author, he has made

Proposed Program for the 2022 Annual Meeting

(subject to change)

Sweetwater Baptist Association

2022 Annual Meeting Program

Theme: *Our Heritage Lives On* Deuteronomy 6:5-7

Director of Missions Tony Rutherford
Vice Moderator Darrell Cardin
Moderator Michael McLemore

Celebrating 192 Years... 1830-2022

Monday Evening, October 17, 2022

BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH, Madisonville, Tennessee
Business Session

- 6:00 *Associational Council Report*..... *Video Presentation*
- 6:30 *Greetings and Prayer*..... *Tony Rutherford*
 Director of Missions (Member, Fairview Baptist Tabernacle Church)
- Memorial Report* *Video Presentation*
- Video Message*..... *Dr. Randy Davis*
 Executive Director-Treasurer, Tennessee Baptist Mission Board
- TBMB Representative*..... *TBMB Representative*
 Tennessee Baptist Mission Board
- Welcome and Prayer*.....*Zad Tomberlin*
 Pastor, Bethlehem Baptist Church
- Presentation of Gavel*..... *Director of Missions*
- Call to Order*..... *Michael McLemore*
 Moderator (Pastor, 411 Chapel Baptist Church)
- Business Session* *Moderator*
- Constitution of Body*.....*Becky Jones*
 Clerk (Member, First Baptist Church, Madisonville)
- Appointment of Committee on Nominations*..... *Moderator*
- Election of Officers* *Darrell Cardin*
 Vice-Moderator (Pastor, Christianburg Baptist Church)
- Committee on Nominations*..... *Carroll Hamilton*
 Chairman Committee on Nominations (Pastor, Rural Vale Baptist Church)
- Treasurer's Report* *Sheri Stephens*
 Treasurer (Member, Notchey Creek Baptist Church)
- Presentation of Budget*..... *Jonas Turpin*
 Budget Committee Chairman (Pastor, Walnut Grove Baptist Church)
- Director of Missions Report and Presentation(s)*... *Tony Rutherford*
- Presentation of 2023 Calendar* *Director of Missions*
- Recommendation(s)*..... *Director of Missions*
- Old Business* *Vice-Moderator*
- New Business* *Vice-Moderator*
- Adjourn* *Vice-Moderator*

Brief Intermission

Monday Evening, October 17, 2022

BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH, Madisonville, Tennessee
Worship Session

- Congregational Hymn*..... *Bethlehem Baptist Church*
- Welcome and Prayer*..... *Darrell Cardin*
 Vice-Moderator (Pastor, Christianburg Baptist Church)
- Offertory Hymn*..... *Bethlehem Baptist Church*
- Special Music*..... *information to be provided by Moderator*
- Moderator's Message*..... *Michael McLemore*
 Moderator (Pastor, 411 Chapel Baptist Church)
- Benediction*..... *Director of Missions*

Proposed Budget changes for 2022-2023:

- (a) Increase Disaster Relief by \$500.00 or a total of \$600.00 (*maintenance for disaster relief trailer; start-up funds should disaster occur, local or international*)
- (b) Increase WMU/Ladies Ministry by \$1000.00 or a total of \$1500.00 (*provides two events, in addition to State and Regional Training/Conferences*)
- (c) Increase Senior Adult by \$500.00 or a total of \$1500.00 (*provides free Christmas Show event*)
- (d) Increase Pastor Ministry by \$700.00 or a total of \$3000.00 (*provides Pastor/Family picnic, Pastor/Wife Christmas and Memorial Bibles for death*)
- (e) Increase Utilities by \$700.00 or a total of \$3750.00 (*increase in cost of Water/Electric*)

- (f) Increase DOM by \$2600.00 (*\$850.00 Salary; \$850.00 Housing; \$600.00 Retirement; \$300.00 Christmas Gift*)
- (g) Increase Administrative by \$1800.00 (*\$269.00 Salary; \$1300.00 Retirement; \$300.00 Christmas Gift*)
- (h) Increase Ministry Assistant by \$1600.00 (*\$1300.00 Salary; \$300.00 Christmas Gift*)
- (i) Increase Staff Social Security by \$261.00 or a total of \$5092.00 (*reflects increase due to increase in salaries*)

The proposed overall budget INCREASE is \$9,711.00 or a total budget of \$203,269.00. This is a proposed budget increase of 5%.

SWEETWATER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION Proposed Budget for 2022-2023	Budget for 2021-2022	Proposed Budget for 2022-2023	Increase/ Decrease
I. ASSOCIATIONAL ADMINISTRATION			
DOM Package			
DOM Salary/Housing	58,400.00	60,100.00	+ 1,700.00
DOM Benefits	8,805.00	9,405.00	+ 600.00
DOM Business Expenses	11,577.00	11,577.00	
Administrative Assistant	28,200.00	28,469.00	+ 269.00
Adm. Asst Retirement (Salary Reduction)	2,369.00	3,600.00	+ 1,231.00
Adm. Asst Travel	309.00	309.00	
Ministry Assistant/Receptionist	25,000.00	26,300.00	+ 1,300.00
Ministry Assistant/Receptionist Retirement (Salary Reduction)	1,298.00	1,298.00	
Ministry Asst/Receptionist Travel	309.00	309.00	
Staff Social Security	4,831.00	5,092.00	+ 261.00
Postal Expenses	2,100.00	2,100.00	
Office Supplies	1,980.00	1,980.00	
Office Equipment/Copier Maintenance	1,800.00	1,800.00	
New Equipment	1,000.00	1,000.00	
Associational Calendars	770.00	770.00	
Messengers	2,310.00	2,310.00	
II. ASSOCIATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS			
Church Growth & Development	1,000.00	1,000.00	
Vacation Bible School	1,650.00	1,650.00	
Mens Ministry/Brotherhood	750.00	750.00	
Disaster Relief	100.00	600.00	+ 500.00
Womens/Ladies/WMU	500.00	1,500.00	+ 1,000.00
Children	500.00	500.00	
Biblical Studies	1,000.00	1,000.00	
Evangelism	2,500.00	2,500.00	
Local Evangelism/Outreach	1,650.00	1,650.00	
Music	200.00	200.00	
Mission Development	1,500.00	1,500.00	
Student Scholarship (High School Seniors)	2,200.00	2,200.00	
Senior Adult	1,000.00	1,500.00	+ 500.00
Pastor Ministry	2,300.00	3,000.00	+ 700.00
Media Center	200.00	200.00	
Student/Youth	5,000.00	5,000.00	
III. ASSOCIATIONAL MEETING			
Annual Meeting	900.00	900.00	
IV. ASSOCIATIONAL OFFICE MAINTENANCE			
Building Maintenance	3,000.00	3,000.00	
General Maintenance	3,400.00	3,400.00	
Telephone/Internet/Website	3,000.00	3,000.00	
Utilities	3,000.00	3,750.00	+ 750.00
Insurance (Office)	5,000.00	5,000.00	
V. MISCELLANEOUS			
General Miscellaneous	650.00	650.00	
Christmas Gift (DOM)	500.00	800.00	+ 300.00
Christmas Gift (AA)	500.00	800.00	+ 300.00
Christmas Gift (RC)	500.00	800.00	+ 300.00
The Tennessee Baptist Convention provides TBC Supplement for the Sweetwater Baptist Association per terms of Covenant Agreement. Total Monthly \$782.00/Annually \$9384.00			
TOTALS (5 % overall increase)	\$193,558.00	\$203,269.00	+ \$9,711.00

+Increase -Decrease ***New Item

CHURCH CLERKS: Annual Church Profile (ACP) packets and Messenger cards for the 2022 are available at the Association Office. If you have not already done so, we would appreciate you stopping by to pick up the ACP packet for your church. The ACP and Messenger cards must be completed and returned to the SBA Office by October 1st.



Please remember that in accordance with the *Constitution and By-Laws of the Sweetwater Baptist Association*, each church (in good standing) is allowed 7 Messengers. These are the only people allowed to participate in voting during the business session of the *Annual Meeting*. Messenger names must be submitted on the Messenger Card and returned to the Sweetwater Baptist Association.

If you need help completing your Messenger cards or ACP, please contact the Associational Office at 442-442-6604 and we will be happy to assist you in this process.

UPDATE ON UKRAINE RELIEF:

We want to thank our churches for the response you have provided for the people of Ukraine. Over the past several months, many of our churches and individuals have responded directly to the needs of family and friends in Ukraine.

2022 TBMB Disaster Relief Funds for Ukraine for <i>Send Relief International</i>	
Union Hall	250.00
Notchey Creek	40.00

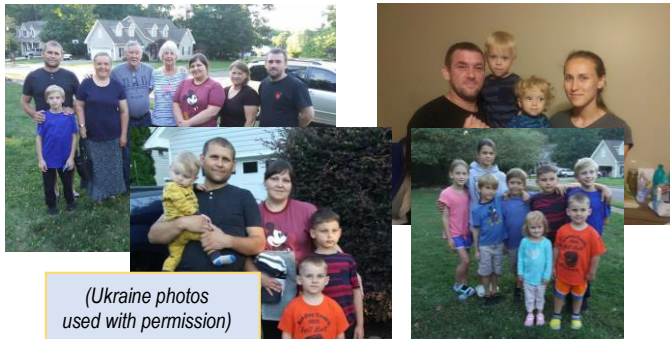
In addition, funds brought to our office have been sent to the Tennessee Baptist Mission Board, Disaster Relief who is partnering with *Send Relief International*. According to the TBMB, *Send Relief International* works to provide food, shelter, transportation and clothing for refugees coming into Poland from Ukraine.



Recently many of our churches also responded to the call to help fill the SBA disaster relief trailer with items to aid Ukrainian refugees. These items were delivered to the distribution center in Chattanooga, as part of the TBMB Disaster Relief for Ukraine to assist refugees fleeing to Moldova and Israel from Ukraine.

2022 Funds for Ukraine for <i>Local Refugee Families</i>	
Oak Grove	550.00

Just recently our churches responded to the call to assist 3 refugee families that have been relocated to this area as part of the government refugee program. Our



(Ukraine photos used with permission)

churches have provided baby items, household items, clothes, toys and monetary gifts. Items are still being accepted for these families as they make their homes here in East Tennessee. Our Resident Interpreter, Svitlana Self is assisting with the distribution of things given to our office for these families. Here is information we have available for the families:

- (1)Ukraine family of 5 live with a host family in Tellico Plains area (father, mother, 3 children: ages 6, 4 and 2 with another baby due in August)
- (2)Ukraine family of 4 live in rental apartment in Cleveland area (father, mother, 2 children: ages 4 and 19 mos.)
- (3)Ukraine family of 5 live in mission house until August 1st in Cleveland area (father, mother, 3 children: ages 6, 4, 12 mos.)

Even though these families were brought to our area as part of a government refugee program, they are still waiting for important paperwork to be processed and finalized which is a time-consuming process. Please remember these families in your prayers.

Thank you churches for ministering to those displaced and impacted by the crisis in Ukraine. Thank you for always being generous supporters of missions. Please continue to pray for the Ukraine nation and the people of Ukraine.



I am looking forward to seeing everyone again at the Ladies Ministry/WMU

SBA WMU/Ladies Ministry News

Meeting on November 7th. Our host church will be South Madisonville Baptist Church and our guest speaker will be from Jehovah Jireh Ministries. Jehovah Jireh is a non-profit feeding ministry based in Sweetwater. This ministry serves a free meal every Thursday for anyone in need at the Marcella Center. They also make meal deliveries to area shut-ins each Thursday. We are still finalizing all the planning for this meeting, so watch your mail and check your messages...we will be sending more information in the near future.

The Ladies Ministry/WMU now has a group text service. If you would like to join and start receiving information on upcoming events and news, please contact Becky Jones at the Association to get signed up.

I would like to encourage you to be in prayer for our students, teachers and staff as they are beginning a new school year. Just like previous years, this school year will be starting out with a lot of unknown challenges. Let us pray for a safe and happy school year ahead for everyone in the school system. Love in Christ, Rachel Thompson, Associational WMU/Ladies Ministry Director

OCTOBER is Pastor Appreciation Month

Pastor Appreciation Month/Day is an excellent opportunity for churches to affirm love and appreciation to the men of God who are called and serve the Churches. Suggestions for celebrating **Pastor Appreciation Day** include presentation of appreciation certificate or plaque, gift certificate or monetary gift, reception following service, special prayer time for family, spiritual guidance and encouragement. We are so thankful for our pastors and their families, and their ministry to the churches and communities.

GOLDEN OFFERING: In 1902 W.C. and Mildred Golden challenged Tennessee Baptists to pray for and give to



missions within the state and initiated the offering. The offering was named after the Golden's in 1943. Today, churches are still encouraged to learn about, pray for, give to and serve in missions and ministries in Tennessee.

The *Golden Offering* theme for 2022-2023 is *Do a New Thing*. The suggested date for the Week of Prayer is September 11-17. The Scripture focus is Isaiah 43:19.



The *Golden Offering* provides invaluable support for ministries that help reach Tennesseans for Christ. The offering is collected all year, with a special emphasis on giving and praying in September. Please join other churches in being part of the season of prayer for Tennessee and the *Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions*. (Information taken from www.goldenoffering.org)



The *Summit* is the annual gathering of Tennessee Baptists for Pastors Conference and Annual Meeting. It will be held November

13-16 at Bellevue Baptist Church in Cordova. Online information and additional registration is available at www.tnbaptist.org/summit2022



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

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 at www.fairviewfamily.org.

Services include....

- Anxiety & Depression Coping Skills
- Identity & Self Worth Helps
- Individual & Family Sessions
- Children & Teen Counseling
- Premarital & Marriage Counseling
- Divorce, Addiction & Grief Recovery
- Classes, Retreats & Seminars



YOUTH COMMITTEE: *CONNECT 2022* is in the books. It was a great time of worship, praise, and preaching, with some laughter thrown in as well. Thank you, Notchey Creek Baptist Church, for being gracious hosts again this year. The Youth Committee will be meeting soon to begin planning for next year. We are thankful for the student ministries in our churches. Thank you, students and leaders, for your service to the Kingdom. --Josh Croft, Youth Committee Chairman

CONNECT, 2022



ORDINATIONS & ANNIVERSARIES

On May 30th, Tony presented a 150-Year Plaque to **MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH**. This plaque was issued by the Tennessee Baptist Mission Board in recognition of this milestone. (Pictured: Tony Rutherford and Pastor Arthur Moser)



Church News

BIG CREEK

We are having **Old-Timers Day** on October 9, beginning at 10:30 am, with lunch to follow in the fellowship hall. Tim Menzies will be singing. Everyone is invited to join us.



GREGORY'S CHAPEL

We will be celebrating Homecoming on September 18. Service begins at 11:00 am, with the **Hymnsmen** as special guest singers. Lunch will be served after service.

MAPLE SPRINGS

We are excited to introduce our Youth Leaders, Adam and Megan Martin. They have two precious boys, Tucker and Huck. Adam and Megan are looking forward to working with our students and getting to know other youth leaders in the association. If any churches have upcoming youth events, please let them know...they would love to participate. You can contact Adam or Megan at 423-453-9143 or 423-887-4622.



MT. ZION

We will be celebrating our 200-Year anniversary on August 21-22, 2022. We would like to invite everyone to join us on Saturday, August 21 at 4:00 pm for an ice cream social and fellowship with singing. On Sunday, August 22, we will have a special worship service beginning at 10:00 am, followed by lunch and then a time for sharing memories in the afternoon. If any questions, please contact Holly Franklin at 423-337-1958.

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!

UNION MCMINN

We will be hosting the *Annual Project Leader Workshop* for the *Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry*. The workshop will be held on September 9, at 10:00 am. Please contact Donna Hitch for more information at drh62990819@gmail.com.



VONORE BAPTIST

Youth Director, Steve Giles would like to invite everyone to a concert event at Grain Bin Commodities (5209 Holt Rd, Sweetwater). The JJ Weeks Band from Macon, GA, will be in concert on Friday, September 23 at 7:00 pm. Tickets are \$10 each and can be bought by calling 865-599-9001 or stopping by Grain Bin Commodities Bakery.



REGIONAL WORSHIP SUMMITS

LOCATIONS/DATES

BREAKOUT TRACKS

LOWER EAST TENNESSEE

Saturday, August 6
Dallas Bay Church, Hixson

EAST TENNESSEE

Saturday, August 13
First Baptist Church, Dandridge

WEST TENNESSEE

Saturday, August 20
West Jackson Baptist Church

MIDDLE TENNESSEE

Saturday, August 27
Grace Baptist Church, Nashville

Find details about a
Worship Summit near you at
www.worshipsummits.com

- **Worship Leaders/Ministers of Music**
(Full-time, Bivocational, and Volunteer)
- **Worship Bands/Worship Teams**
(Band Members, Vocalists, and Leaders)
- **Choirs**
(Choir Members and Directors)
- **Keyboard Ministry**
(Pianists and Keyboardists)
- **Children's Choir**
(Children's Choir Leaders and Helpers)
- **Audio-Visual Ministry**
(Church Sound, Projection, and Video)
- **Creativity in Worship**

TMB
Tennessee Baptist
MISSION BOARD

WORSHIP
SUMMIT

www.worshipsummits.com

Sweetwater Baptist Association696 Anderson Street
Madisonville, TN 37354PRST STD
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Madisonville, TN
37354**ASSOCIATIONAL OFFICERS, 2021-2022**

MODERATOR MICHAEL McLEMORE	VICE MODERATOR DARRELL CARDIN	Associational Council Officers & Committee Chairmen
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 Jolly	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 Rachel Thompson	Vacation Bible School Directors Bryan & Kim Williamson

NEWS FROM AROUND THE ASSOCIATION**Director of Mission Visits/Miscellaneous:**

Rocky Springs; Gregory's Chapel; Ebenezer; South Madisonville; Druid Hill (Scholarship); Trinity; 411 Chapel; Mt. Calvary (Revival); Compromise; Faith Promise (Bristol); Notchey Creek (Sunrise); Cedar Fork; Union McMinn; Poplar Bluff (Scholarship); Long Ridge; Walnut Grove; Cane Creek; Christianburg (Homecoming); Westside; Cedar Valley; Paint Rock; Vonore; Union Grove (Tent Revival); Fellowship; Murrays (Homecoming); Williamsburg; Tevis Springs; Union Hall; Glenlock (Plaque Presentation); Millers Chapel; Towee Falls; DOM Retreat; Macedonia (Homecoming/Plaque Presentation); Unity

Please pray for our churches without pastors:

Lakeside (Interim), Vonore (Interim), Williamsburg


Sweetwater Baptist Association*Check Out Our Website*www.sweetwaterbaptistassociation.com*Visit us on Facebook***SBA Office Hours:**

Monday-Thursday, 8:30 am-4:00 pm

Upcoming Events

"Neither is there salvation in any other; for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." -Acts 4:12

- September 6*Biblical Studies Classes*, SBA Office, 6:30 p.m.
 September 12*Pastor/Family Picnic*, Notchey Creek Pavilion, 6:30 p.m.
 September 11-17 *Week of Prayer for State Missions and Golden Offering*
 September 26*Mission Committee Meeting*, SBA Office, 6:30 p.m.
 September 28*See You at the Pole*
 October 17*Annual Meeting*, Bethlehem, Business Session 6:30 p.m.
 October 17*Annual Meeting*, Bethlehem, Worship Service following Business Session
 November 7*WMU/Ladies Meeting*, South Madisonville, 7:00 p.m.
 November 13-16...*The Summit, Tennessee Baptist Convention*, Cordova
 Nov 28-Dec 5*Week of Prayer for International Missions and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering*
 December 5*Christmas Show, Vonore, 10:30 a.m.*
 December 5*Pastor/Wife Christmas Banquet*, Vonore, 6:30 p.m.
(All meetings and events subject to change)

**WMU/Ladies Group**

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

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



Next issue of The Messenger will be November/December.

SBA Office Hours Monday-Thursday 8:30 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.*Plan now to attend...*

Sweetwater Baptist Association

2023 Association Evangelism Rally**Monday & Tuesday, January 9th & 10th****Dr. Jeff LaBorg**, Conference Preacher

Lead Pastor, Fairview Knox Church, Corryton, TN

SPECIAL MUSICMonday: Associational Choir,
(under direction of Phillip Johnson)

Tuesday: Kenny Evans

Hosted by: **Notchey Creek Baptist Church**, Madisonville, TNTheme: *Our Heritage Lives On***EVERYONE INVITED!****Two Nights!**

6:45 p.m.

Sweetwater Baptist Association

Monday Pastor's Conference, 10:00 a.m.Preaching Schedule for August:

- Aug 1st Mike Jones
- Aug 8th Shane Johnston
- Aug 15th Art Graham
- Aug 22nd Steve Pearson
- Aug 29th Mike Townsend



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.