

The MESSENGER
of the
Sweetwater Baptist Association



"Churches on Mission Together"
Celebrating 190 years, 1830 – 2020

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Check us out on Facebook and
Visit our Website: sweetwaterbaptistassociation.com

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COVID-19: We want to say thank you for your understanding during this unprecedented situation of the past few weeks. The SBA Office has followed guidelines and mandates by our local, state and federal governments, while continually checking office calls and emails, as well as being in the office as much as possible. Meetings have had to be cancelled and rescheduled. Effective May 4th, the Associational Staff returned to the SBA Office for regular in-office work schedule.



Here is an update of meetings and the current status of each:

- **Executive Board Meeting:** April 2020 Meeting cancelled and will not be rescheduled
- **Vacation Bible School Clinic:** April VBS Clinic cancelled and will not be rescheduled for 2020
- **WMU/Ladies Ministry:** May 2020 Meeting cancelled and will not be rescheduled for May 2020
- **Youth Reach:** July 2020 *Youth Reach* in Pigeon Forge cancelled and will not be rescheduled for 2020

We regret having to cancel these meetings and events. This was not an easy decision to make for each meeting or event; however, we feel this was in the best interest of our churches and congregations. We look forward to continuing our work together as we plan, schedule and reschedule ministry opportunities, meetings and events.

Sweetwater Baptist Association

2020 Church Growth and Development Conference

Monday, August 31st, 6:30 p.m.

First Baptist Church, Madisonville

Breakout Sessions Include:

- Empowering Your Church thru 40 Days of Prayer
- Church Clerk Training
- Church Treasurer Training
- Local Projects for Women
- Deacon Training

Something for pastors and all church leadership!
Plan now to attend! Everyone Welcome!

Pastor and Family Picnic

Notchey Creek Baptist Church
Pavilion Area, Madisonville

Monday, September 14th
Meal at 6:30 p.m.

Fall Biblical Studies

Practical Theology (8-week study)
Begins September 1st – SBA Office

Topics include:

- *Pastor/Deacon Relationship*
- *Parliamentary Procedure*
- *Conducting Business Meetings*
- *Conducting Weddings/Funerals* and others

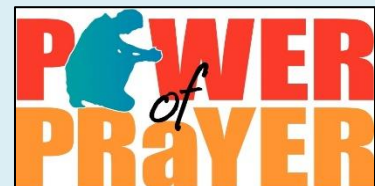
Cost: \$20.00 per person (non-credit)

Contact: SBA Office for more information

Old Fashioned Prayer Meeting

Poplar Bluff Baptist Church
Tellico Plains, Tennessee

Monday, August 10th
7:00 p.m.



Director of Missions



It is the book of James that addresses the optimistic approach many of us took at the beginning of 2020. We enthusiastically presented plans for a productive year. We included Vacation Bible School, mission trips, revivals, and other outreach goals. I personally failed to take the unexpected into account. James shared this wisdom: "Go to now, ye that say, today or tomorrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell and get gain: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor, that appears for a little time, and then vanishes away," James 4:13-14. We cannot control the unexpected, unforeseen, nor the unexplained. We can, however, continue trusting the God of our faith. He has not, nor will He ever forsake His children.

The churches of the Sweetwater Baptist Association will address our future, considering Covid-19, and how to apply our faith. By learning from the past two months that have kept us locked down and quarantined, our approach to in-person worship, home visitation, and small groups may need to be adjusted. Our foremost objective is to share the love of Christ with the lost in our community and equip the believer. **THAT GOAL WILL NEVER CHANGE!** The Church has demonstrated creative ways to express God's love through a variety of methods. The feedback from your efforts are extremely positive. Some of these means of communication need to be maintained as we go forward. Like you, I am hopeful that full participation of in-person worship will return shortly. In the meantime, the SBA office is back to operating at full speed. Be watching for rescheduling events and upcoming opportunities to participate in educational, spiritual, and uplifting events.

Decisions are now being made concerning summer events. *Youth Reach* has just been cancelled for 2020. Iowa and Guatemala mission trips are still being assessed. One of the major factors in the Guatemala mission trip concerns the airlines and the freedom to fly into that country. Presently, these options are not available to us and are not likely to open very soon. The Iowa mission trip will be determined on June 1, 2020. Presently, the people in Iowa are doubtful in gathering children together for VBS and coming together for evening revival. There is some discussion concerning the possibility of having a construction team travel to Iowa. The fall adventures are still to be finalized. Your prayers and God's willingness to revoke this virus, could make a way for these events to take place.

Efforts to have a successful Vacation Bible School are slowly coming into focus. Hosting a carefully planned VBS can still reach hundreds of children. Each VBS director needs to walk through their facility looking for potential problem areas and address them prior to kicking off their VBS. Look for the best way to keep small groups under control, plan the safest way to provide snacks, and provide hand sanitizer and or wipes for each class. When you have confirmed your VBS date, please contact the SBA office. I will try to make a visit to your church during this fun yet spiritual occasion.

Be Blessed, --Tony Rutherford

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING: The Executive Board Meeting that was scheduled for April 27 will not be rescheduled as an in-person meeting. The agenda for the meeting included reports from the various associational departments in addition to the financial update. Therefore, here is an abbreviated version of those reports and updates. Since the newsletter is printed and mailed, as well as available for viewing or downloading from our website, this will serve as a printed and digital meeting of the Executive Board.



Director of Missions Report:

- Tiny House: construction has been completed on the tiny house and it has been set at Sweetwater location
- Myanmar Wells: \$48,252.00 received from churches for drilling
- Tennessee Disaster Relief: \$6485.00 received for middle Tennessee tornado relief, as well as much needed supplies distributed through Putnam County EMA
- Mission Projects (Iowa, Guatemala) are still being evaluated
- Old Fashioned Prayer Meeting, August 10, 7:00 p.m., Poplar Bluff
- Church Growth & Development Conference, Madisonville First, August 31, 6:30 p.m.
(1) Empowering Your Church thru 40 Days of Prayer (2) Church Clerk Training (3) Church Treasurer/Financial Issues (4) Deacon Training (5) Local Projects for Women

Financial Report October 1, 2019 – March 31, 2020:

- Church gifts continue to be strong while operating expenses remain below budget. (A list of church gifts through April is provided in this issue of *The Messenger*.)

Evangelism:

- Dr. Bartholomew Orr, Brown Baptist Church, Southaven, MS confirmed as guest preacher for 2021 Evangelism Rally, January 18-19, 2021 at Notchey Creek

Scholarship

- High School Scholarship Selections have been made and presented in May (a list of 2020 recipients are included in this issue of newsletter)

We thank Moderator Mitch Ingram, Vice Moderator Lewis Jones, Associational Council Officers and all Committees Members for their leadership in serving the Churches of the Association.

2020 SBA HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS:

We want to offer congratulations to all graduating high school seniors in the churches across our Association. Several years ago, the Sweetwater Baptist Association began a scholarship program for graduating high school seniors. We feel the scholarship is a way to say to young people that we believe in them, and would like to be part of their lives as they prepare for the future. As always, the Scholarship Committee was faced with a difficult task of making the selections for this year, since all were deserving applicants. The 2020 SBA High School Scholarship recipients are:



Abigail Grace Lovingood

Notchey Creek Baptist Church
Sequoyah High School



Alyssa Sophia Hamilton

Union McMinn Baptist Church
Sweetwater High School



Elijah Bane Thompson

Long Ridge Baptist Church
Berean Christian High School



Kolton Brooks Stakely

Bethlehem Baptist Church
Tellico Plains High School

We congratulate these students who were each awarded \$500.00 cash scholarships on behalf of the churches of the Sweetwater Baptist Association. Thank you to the churches for providing this scholarship for our young people.

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. Please note, the following report reflects church gifts received through April 27, 2020. 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, 2019 – April, 2020

Church/Mission	Oct-March	April	May	June	July	Total
411 Chapel	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Altoona	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Antioch	150.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	175.00
Beaty's Chapel	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bethlehem	6,058.00	1,178.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,236.62
Big Creek	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Calvary	445.57	106.59	0.00	0.00	0.00	552.16
Cane Creek	1,200.00	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,400.00
Cedar Fork	3,029.66	344.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,374.06
Cedar Valley	5,060.96	665.38	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,726.34

Christianburg	545.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	545.05
Citico	585.75	77.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	662.80
Clifton	125.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	150.00
Community	275.72	63.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	338.93
Compromise	300.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	350.00
Conasauga	600.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	700.00
Concord	1,234.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,234.10
Delano	1,691.81	300.98	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,992.79
Druid Hills	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ebenezer	401.77	44.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	445.77
Fairview	120.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	120.00
Fairview						
Tabernacle	7,457.12	1,121.99	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,579.11
Fellowship	832.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	832.00
Glenlock	1,333.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,333.33
Gregory's Chapel	600.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	700.00
Hopewell Springs	572.00	95.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	667.00
Howards Chapel	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Island Creek	1,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,500.00
Lakeside	900.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	900.00
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	300.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	300.00
Madisonville,						
First	2,500.02	416.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,916.69
Maple Springs	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
Miller's Chapel	600.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	700.00
Mt. Calvary	630.47	71.19	0.00	0.00	0.00	701.66
Mt. Isabella	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mt. Zion	3,119.60	472.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,592.05
Murray's	1,727.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,727.13
New Bethany	2,088.80	418.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,507.50
New Macedonia	840.00	140.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	980.00
New Providence	2,100.00	501.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,601.22
North						
Sweetwater	479.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	479.62
Notchey Creek	2,698.86	449.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,148.67
Oak Grove	2,142.32	205.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,347.77
Oakland	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00
Old Pond Hill	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
Old Sweetwater	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
Paint Rock	660.00	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	770.00
Piney Grove	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
Poplar Bluff	1,201.76	189.47	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,391.23
Reed Springs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Rocky Springs	2,400.00	400.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,800.00
Rural Vale	2,151.39	308.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,460.20
Shady Grove	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00
Shelton Grove	966.83	157.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,124.09
Shoal Creek	453.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	453.00
South						
Madisonville	600.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	700.00
Sweetwater, First	2,100.00	350.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,450.00
Tellico	1,200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,200.00
Tellico, First	2,796.00	502.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,298.00
Tevis Springs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Towee Falls	900.00	150.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,050.00
Trinity	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Union Grove	720.00	120.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	840.00
Union Hall	299.00	52.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	351.00
Union McMinn	2,400.00	400.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,800.00
Unity	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00
Upper Shady						
Grove	300.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	350.00
Vonore	11,956.48	1,543.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	13,499.49
Walnut Grove	1,332.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,332.26
Watson Chapel	2,080.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,080.00
Westside	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00
Williamsburg	323.50	44.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	368.40
TBC	4,692.00	782.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,474.00
Misc AM	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Misc Interest	262.04	43.23	0.00	0.00	0.00	305.27
Total Income	97,438.92	12,575.39	0.00	0.00	0.00	110,014.31

Sweetwater Baptist Association696 Anderson Street
Madisonville, TN 37354PRST STD
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37354**ASSOCIATIONAL OFFICERS, 2019-2020****MODERATOR**

MITCH INGRAM

VICE MODERATOR

LEWIS JONES

Associational Council

Officers & Committee Chairmen

Committee on Nominations

Richard Lane, Chairman

Children's Director

Kendra McDonald

Constitution Committee

Charles Ridenour, Chairman

Finance Committee

Trey Ferguson, Chairman

Disaster Relief Director

Jim Jollay

Evangelism Committee

Gerald Atkins, Chairman

Mission Committee

Steve Moore, Chairman

Men's Ministry Director

Bryan Coffey

Program Committee

Vernon Webb, Chairman

Personnel Committee

Deborah Dalton, Chairperson

Music Director

Phillip Johnson

Scholarship Committee

Greg Allen, Chairman

Trustees

Frank Hicks, Chairman

Pastor Advisor

Frank Hicks

Youth Council

Charles "Bud" Boring, Chairman

WMU/Ladies Director
Charlotte Hollinghead**Vacation Bible School Directors**
Bryan & Kim Williamson**NEWS FROM AROUND THE ASSOCIATION****Director of Mission Visits:**

Poplar Bluff, Northport, New Zion

(Online)

Notchey Creek, Northport, Watson Chapel, Tellico First, Fellowship, Westside, New Providence, New Macedonia, Shoal Creek, Trinity, Walnut Grove, Bethlehem, Piney Grove, Old Sweetwater, Oakland, Murray's, Shelton Grove, Reed Springs, Long Ridge, Christianburg, Lakeside, Cedar Fork, Island Creek, Fairview Tabernacle, 411 Chapel, Madisonville First, Cedar Valley, Sweetwater First

Please pray for our churches without pastors:

Conasauga, Fairview (Tellico), Lower Chilhowee, Murrays, Shady Grove, Trinity, Union Grove

*Sweetwater Baptist Association**Check Out Our Website*www.sweetwaterbaptistassociation.com*Visit us on Facebook***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 25.....Memorial Day *Office Closed*July 13.....Nominating Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m., *SBA Office*July 13.....Missions Committee Meeting, 7:00 p.m., *SBA Office*July 14.....Budget Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m., *SBA Office*July 20.....Youth Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m., *SBA Office*August 10...Old Fashioned Prayer Meeting, 7:00 p.m., *Poplar Bluff*August 31...Church Growth & Development Conference, 6:30 p.m., *Madisonville First*September 1.....Biblical Studies Class, Practical Theology, 6:30 p.m., *SBA Office*September 14.....Pastor/Family Picnic, 6:30 p.m., *Notchey Creek Pavilion*

September 23.....See You at the Pole

September 28.....Missions Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m., *SBA Office*

October 1...ACP's & Messenger Cards due at SBA Office

October 19.SBA Annual Meeting, 6:30 p.m. Business 7:15 p.m. Worship, *Vonore***East TN Healthcare
Birthday Cake Schedule**

- ♦**May** - Concord
- ♦**June** - Madisonville First
- ♦**July** - Lakeside
- ♦**August** - 411 Chapel
- ♦**September** - Mt. Zion

2020 SBA Pastor's Conference

Monday Mornings at 10:00 am

No Pastor's Conference in Month of June
Meetings Resume on July 6**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

The Upper Room Christian Counseling, **Macy Small, M.A.**
112 Key Kile Road, Sweetwater, TN 37874, 865.414.3269**SBA Office Hours**

Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

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