

The MESSENGER of the Sweetwater Baptist Association

"Churches on Mission Together"
Celebrating 196 years, 1830 – 2026

SWEET WATER
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.



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Volume 16

July/August, 2026

Number 81

**Sweetwater Baptist Association
Family of Churches Welcome**

Pastor Josh Sloan
Tiffany & Xavier
Old Pond Hill
Baptist Church



Our prayers are with this pastor and congregation as
they share Christ with their community.

Awesome August!

**Plan to be part of Church Community Outreach and
Evangelism Projects during the month of August!**

(Dates on calendar shown below at time of printing.)

SWEET WATER
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Awesome August

31 Days of
Evangelism & Outreach

2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat		
						1		
Youth Revival @ New Providence Aug 2-7	2	3 SBA Old-Fashioned Prayer Meeting 7pm @ Shady Grove	4	5	6 Revival @ Howard's Chapel, Aug 7-9	7	8	
	9	10	11	12	13  TBMB WinTN Prayer Mtg, 6pm Notchey Creek	14	15 Ice Cream Social 4:00 pm Cedar Fork	
Ice Cream Social & Singing PM Svc Old Sweetwater	16	17 Revival @ Murray's Aug 17-19	18	19	20	21	22 Community Cookout 6:00 pm Concord	
PASTOR OTTO NEW BETHEANY SBA	23	PASTOR OTTO SBA PASTORS' CONF HAMA	24	25  Revival SBA Community Revival Services	26 PASTOR OTTO POPULAR BLUFF 7PM	27	28 OCC Shoebox Celebration Union McMillin	29 Cruise-In, 4pm Fish Fry, 5pm Notchey Creek
Senior Men's Group 6pm, Nashville 10:30 Revival @ Notchey Creek, Aug 30-Sept 3	30	31 Revival @ Notchey Creek, Aug 30-Sep 3						

1-Day Revival
3 LOCATIONS

SWEET WATER
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
For the Flames of
REVIVAL
ACTS 2:1-13

NEW PROVIDENCE, TELlico PLAINS

SPEAKER: DAN SPENCER

MUSIC: SAVED BY GRACE

UNION MCMINN, NIOTA

SPEAKER: JEFF LABORG

MUSIC: FAIRVIEW TABERNACLE

ISLAND CREEK, MADISONVILLE

SPEAKER: BEN COWELL

MUSIC: LINGERFELT FAMILY

TUESDAY
AUGUST 25
7:00 PM

FEATURED SPEAKERS

Jeff LaBorg

Pastor Fairview Knox

Ben Cowell

Pastor Brownsville Baptist, TBMB Regional VP

Dan Spencer

Pastor First Baptist Sevierville, TBC President



Director of Missions

The summer numbers are really looking good! The VBS attendance appears to be on the upswing, and the mission participation is



nearing record pace. It is great to see how God is using people and churches of the Sweetwater Baptist Association as you tell the people at home and around the world the "Old, Old Story of Jesus." Your faithfulness and His power are changing lives that make heaven stand up and take notice. Jesus says in Luke 15:7, "...that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repents..." Let us continue to focus on the instructions Jesus provided to His disciples. Jesus speaking of himself in Luke 19:10, "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." Sharing that GOOD NEWS is the central purpose of His church. Be aware of things that might distract us from that goal.

Revival season is quickly approaching. Churches are already praying for God to do wonderful things in their communities. The Sweetwater Baptist Association is planning two events to jumpstart our revival season. First, is the **Old-Fashioned Prayer Meeting** scheduled for **Monday, August 3rd** at 7:00 pm. Shady Grove Baptist Church will host the meeting, with music provided by Rural Vale Baptist Church. Pastor Vernon Webb from Maple Springs Baptist Church will preach from God's Holy Word. Included is a special time of prayer for our pastors and churches. This night of inspiration is an excellent way to prepare our hearts for upcoming revival.

Second, on **Tuesday, August 25th**, the Association has scheduled a **1-DAY REVIVAL IN 3 LOCATIONS**. We have strategically placed the host churches in areas of easy accessibility hoping that no one must travel a long distance. New Providence Baptist Church would meet the needs of the Tellico area, while Island Creek Baptist Church is available for the Madisonville-Vonore congregations. We encourage the Sweetwater area churches to attend Union-McMinn Baptist Church. However, these are only suggestions. We invite you to attend the *Night of Revival* location of your choice. Elsewhere in this newsletter provides a complete schedule of host churches, special music, and speakers for your consideration.

These two events will ignite **Awesome August** as an excellent time to renew our commitment to evangelism. Hopefully, your congregation will plan an event in August to reach out to your community. Let them know as summer begins to fade and the routine of school returns that the church is there to help them connect to an active relationship with our Heavenly Father. Worship can be an exciting adventure as God demonstrates His love and grace around us. An old southern gospel favorite is "Showers of Blessing." As the "dog days of August" attempts to drain us of our energy, experience a refreshing by the renewing of our mind, heart, and soul by receiving what God has in store for us.

As your church plans fall and winter events, please let the Sweetwater Baptist Association office know. We want to include them in our newsletter and promote your events as we have opportunity. -Tony

Associational News/Events/Information

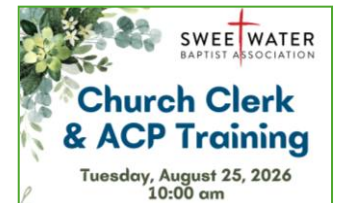
OLD FASHIONED PRAYER MEETING: Please join us on **Monday evening, August 3rd** for the Sweetwater Baptist Association, **Old Fashioned Prayer Meeting**. The

meeting will be hosted by **Shady Grove Baptist Church** and will begin at 7:00 p.m. The preacher for the evening will be Vernon Webb, Pastor of Maple Springs Baptist Church, and special music will be provided by Rural Valey Baptist Church. Please announce this meeting in your church! Everyone is invited.



CHURCH CLERKS: A Church Clerk Training is planned for **Tuesday morning, August 25 at 10:00 a.m.** at the Sweetwater Baptist Association office building in Madisonville. Topics will include Business Meeting Minutes, Membership

Recordkeeping, ACP Reporting. (This training comes just in time for completing *Annual Church Profile* (ACP) information and *Annual Meeting Messenger* cards for 2026.) Please call or email the SBA office to register. We look forward to seeing Church Clerks and Church Secretaries at this important conference. Everyone is invited.



PASTOR & FAMILY PICNIC: Pastors, please bring your family and join us for the Sweetwater Baptist Association, **Pastor & Family Picnic** on **Monday evening, September 21st at 6:30 p.m.** The picnic will be held at the Notchey Creek Baptist Church, Pavilion Picnic Area.

Please remember reservations are required for the meal; so RSVP as soon as possible. Please mark this date on your calendar! We look forward to a fun time of food and fellowship at the *Pastor and Family Picnic*!



Please join us for . . . Sweetwater Baptist Association

Pastors' Conference

Monday Morning, 10:00 a.m.

SWEETWATER
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION



CHURCH GIFTS: We are so thankful to the churches for the gifts you have shared with the Sweetwater Baptist Association. Your 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 giving spirit and support of the budget ministries of the Association. Here is a list of church gifts received from October 1, 2025 thru July 13, 2026.

SBA Church Gifts: October 1, 2025 – July 13, 2026

Church/Mission	OCT-MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	TOTAL
411 Chapel	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Antioch	150.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	225.00
Beaty's Chapel	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00
Bethlehem	5,400.00	900.00	900.00	900.00	0.00	8,100.00
Bible Baptist	0.00	700.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	700.00
Big Creek	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Calvary	563.16	210.25	137.95	435.95	107.20	1,454.51
Cane Creek	600.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	1,000.00
Cedar Fork	3,102.89	539.79	554.91	586.18	503.81	5,287.58
Cedar Valley	4,822.64	2,138.24	0.00	1,473.48	0.00	8,434.36
Christianburg	1,639.42	615.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,254.42
Citico	1,320.36	342.20	260.55	298.60	0.00	2,221.71
Clifton	150.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	250.00
Community	708.51	58.44	237.15	492.66	61.26	1,558.02
Compromise	300.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	500.00
Conasauga	1,500.00	600.00	300.00	300.00	0.00	2,700.00
Concord	1,754.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,754.90
Delano	1,739.05	376.34	300.14	359.46	0.00	2,774.99
Druid Hills	600.00	0.00	200.00	100.00	100.00	1,000.00
Ebenezer	308.00	92.00	0.00	112.00	66.00	578.00
Fairview	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fairview Tabernacle	7,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	11,000.00
Fellowship	830.73	150.21	213.71	290.51	0.00	1,485.16
Glenlock	1,670.00	668.00	334.00	334.00	0.00	3,006.00
Gregory's Chapel	500.00	100.00	200.00	100.00	0.00	900.00
Hopewell Springs	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
Howards Chapel	600.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	1,000.00
Island Creek	2,100.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	3,300.00
Lakeside	1,200.00	0.00	0.00	600.00	0.00	1,800.00
Long Ridge	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00
Lower Chilhowee	1,604.32	536.40	294.50	534.85	0.00	2,970.07
Macedonia	600.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	600.00
Madisonville, First	2,500.02	833.34	0.00	833.34	0.00	4,166.70
Maple Springs	750.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	750.00
Miller's Chapel	600.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	1,000.00
Mt. Calvary	772.41	154.04	132.23	105.24	114.93	1,278.85
Mt. Isabella	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mt. Zion	4,184.01	794.45	705.83	480.07	0.00	6,164.36
Murray's	2,359.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,359.15
New Bethany	1,811.43	364.67	322.28	358.52	250.20	3,107.10
New Macedonia	1,200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	2,000.00
New Providence	5,143.89	1,000.00	881.50	1,000.00	676.85	8,702.24
New Zion	350.00	0.00	0.00	150.00	0.00	500.00
North Sweetwater	498.97	125.88	77.78	132.19	118.88	953.70
Notchey Creek	5,288.60	874.92	844.53	768.87	666.74	8,443.66
Oak Grove	1,211.03	1,267.83	401.83	0.00	759.25	3,639.94
Oakland	400.00	200.00	0.00	0.00	200.00	800.00
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	500.00	1,000.00
Paint Rock	660.00	110.00	110.00	110.00	110.00	1,000.00
Piney Grove	0.00	0.00	400.00	0.00	0.00	400.00
Poplar Bluff	600.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	1,000.00
Reed Springs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Rocky Springs	2,600.00	800.00	0.00	0.00	800.00	4,200.00
Rural Vale	2,230.04	834.02	0.00	457.80	0.00	3,521.86
Shady Grove	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
Shelton Grove	1,439.98	254.58	161.63	232.75	286.29	2,375.23
Shoal Creek	671.00	331.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,002.00
South Madisonville	900.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	1,500.00

Sweetwater, First	2,100.00	350.00	350.00	350.00	0.00	3,150.00
Tellico	1,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,500.00
Tellico, First	2,509.00	604.00	497.00	489.00	457.00	4,556.00
Tevis Springs	300.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	500.00
Towhee Falls	900.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	1,500.00
Trinity	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Union Grove	720.00	120.00	120.00	120.00	0.00	1,080.00
Union Hall	427.00	43.00	127.00	0.00	0.00	597.00
Union McMinn	2,400.00	400.00	400.00	400.00	400.00	4,000.00
Unity	150.00	0.00	150.00	0.00	0.00	300.00
Upper Shady Grove	300.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	500.00
Vonore	9,518.82	1,480.36	1,759.44	3,092.75	0.00	15,851.37
Walnut Grove	950.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	800.00	1,750.00
Watson Chapel	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Westside	300.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	300.00
Williamsburg	198.82	84.10	42.50	45.10	0.00	370.52
TBMB	3,756.00	626.00	626.00	626.00	0.00	5,634.00
Misc AM	11,320.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	2077.50	13,398.30
Misc Interest	82.90	16.82	20.14	17.64	0.00	137.50
Total Income	117,067.85	22,095.88	14,462.60	19,086.96	11,430.91	184,144.20

CHILDREN'S BIBLE DRILL: *Children's Bible Drill* helps children in Grades 4-6 increase their knowledge of the Bible and learn how to apply the Bible to their lives. *Children's Bible Drill* is made up of three cycles of verses and key passages that rotate over a three-year period. At the end of three years in *Children's Bible Drill*, children will have memorized the books of the Bible and 75 Bible verses. Children will be able to locate Bible books, verses, and 30 Key Passages.



The **2026 Bible Drill** cycle is **Green** and the **2027 Bible Drill** cycle is **Red**. KJV and CSB verse cards are prepared by the TBMB and are available for download on the Children's *Bible Drill* page on the TBMB website at the following link...<https://www.tnbaptist.org/childrens-bible-drill/>



Tennessee Baptist Mission Board, Annual Meeting

THE SUMMIT

Savannah Convention Center, November 15-18 Online registration opens, September 1

If your church has used or unused **Sunday School Literature** that you would like to donate, please contact **Ginger Lloyd** to make arrangements for donating.

Please TEXT: 423-572-2700

(We are sorry, materials cannot be left at the Sweetwater Baptist Association office building due to limited space.)

SBA Church Food Pantries

Church	Info & Contact
Bible Baptist	Lillie Miller 423-519-4267 M/T/Th/F 9am-2pm
Big Creek	865-224-1850
Fairview Tab/Homebuilders SS	865-414-3269 Macy Small
Madisonville, First Baptist	Sat 8am-9:30am (not 5th Sat)
New Bethany (Pantry/M meal)	4th Wed of each month 5-7pm
Notchey Creek	4th Thur of each month at 10 am
Reed Springs	Thur. 11am-2pm
Shoal Creek	3rd Sat of each month, 10am-Noon
Tellico Plains, First Baptist	423-253-3822
Vonore	Thur. 9am-11am or by appt 423-884-6230
Westside	Dwight Torbett or Mitch/Vickie Anderson
Mt Calvary (Hot Meal Only)	2nd Sat of each month, Nov-Mar, 11am-2pm



Sweetwater Baptist Association 2026 VBS Dates (as reported by each church)

Church	Date	Time	Theme
Glenlock	Jul 19-23		
Long Ridge	Jul 19-24	6:00-8:30	Junkyard Redemption
Notchey Creek	Jul 20-24	6:15-8:45	Emerald Crossing

Sweetwater Baptist Association

2026 VBS Reports (as reported by each church)



Church	Enrollment	Decisions
Christianburg	37	0
Fairview Tabernacle	353	7
Lakeside	74	2
Madisonville, First	263	5
Old Sweetwater	150	9
Rocky Springs	95	0
Shoal Creek	119	1
Vonore	141	1
Walnut Grove	66	0

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REPORTS

At the conclusion of your Vacation Bible School, please take a few minutes to complete the **2026 LifeWay VBS Report**. The link is listed below, and every church is asked to complete the report, regardless of theme used.

LifeWay VBS Report <https://vbs.lifeway.com/church-report/>

Also, please send the following information to the Sweetwater Baptist Association.

You can call 423-442-6604 or email the information to

becky.jones@bellsouth.net or sweetwaterassoci@bellsouth.net

1. VBS Enrollment
2. VBS Average Attendance
3. VBS Decisions for Christ/Salvations

Please let us know if you have any questions.



Sweetwater Baptist Association 2026 Annual Meeting

Celebrating 196 Years... 1830-2026

Monday Evening, October 19

ROCKY SPRINGS

BAPTIST CHURCH
Madisonville, TN

6:00 p.m. Association Council,
Video Presentation

6:30 p.m. Business Session,
Worship Service to follow



Complete 2026 Annual Meeting Program &
2026-2027 Proposed Budget will appear in next issue of *The Messenger*.

Day of Prayer for

October 18 *Unity in Christ*



The strength of our witness
as an Association of
Churches is found in our

unity. While each
congregation has its
unique identity and ministry focus, we are called to labor together for the
greater purpose of advancing the Gospel. When we work together in missional
alignment, we reflect the heart of Christ, demonstrating His love to a watching
world. On this *Day of Prayer*, please pray for the churches, congregations,
pastors, leadership and staff of the Sweetwater Baptist Association.



"...having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind."

—Philippians 2:2

Information taken from <https://www.namb.net/associations>

2026 SENIOR ADULT CHRISTMAS SHOW:

Make plans now to see **The Perrys** in concert! The Sweetwater Baptist Association is excited this year to feature this

southern gospel group at our annual *Senior*

Adult Christmas Show on **Monday morning, December 7th**. The event will be held at **Union McMinn Baptist Church** in Niota at **10:30 a.m.**

The Perrys—Libbi Perry Stuffle, Jared Stuffle, Dayton Gay, and Jason Gordon are loved by gospel music fans around the world. *The Perrys* have earned many accolades over their illustrious career. If you have ever seen *The Perrys* in concert, you have undoubtedly sensed the power and conviction with which they sing. This group has been delivering soul-stirring performances across North America for nearly five decades.

Let us encourage you to make this a special day for your Senior Adults! Plan an entire day! Enjoy the free morning *Christmas Show* as a group, then you might schedule lunch at a local restaurant or spend the afternoon Christmas shopping! We know you will be blessed by bringing a group from your church and attending the **2026 Senior Adult Christmas Show!**

This is a free Christmas show for all ages! Begin planning now! We look forward to seeing you and your church at **UNION McMINN** on **December 7th**. Everyone is invited!



Sweetwater Baptist Association presents

The Perrys

Monday, December 7, 10:30 a.m.

Hosted by Union McMinn Baptist Church



WIN TN for CHRIST

It is through prayer that we join God in His pursuit of those without Jesus as Savior and Lord.

"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. As the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send outworkers in His harvest"
—Matthew 9:37-38.

The Tennessee Baptist Mission Board is inviting churches across our state to unite in prayer throughout July and August for prodigals and those who do not yet know Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

Join us as we gather for this special hour of prayer, asking God to draw hearts to Himself, strengthen His people, and send workers into His harvest.

NOTCHEY CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Thursday, August 13, 2026

6pm – 7pm, Sanctuary

Everyone is welcome. Invite your family
and friends to join us as we pray together.

GUATEMALA: We praise the Lord for the four (4) short-term volunteer mission teams that traveled to Guatemala to share the Gospel of Christ in May and June.

A mission team from Brittsville (CrossNet), with team members from Long Ridge and Notchey Creek, traveled to the Sela Community to work at Pastor Hamid's church. While this team was in Guatemala, a van was purchased to assist the local congregation in ministry efforts and reported two (2) professions of faith during home visits.



A mission team from Poplar Bluff continued ministry activities and evangelism opportunities with Pastor Antonio at Iglesia Bautista Macedonia, Aldea La Union, Macedonia Baptist Church. They reported twelve (12) professions of faith!

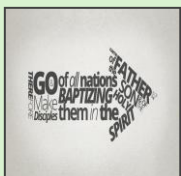


A mission team from Bethlehem returned to work with Pastor Hugo Barrios at the Jesus is the Way Baptist Church at El Cañal. In addition, the team worked at the LaPalmita Baptist Mission with Pastor César.

At the same time, a mission team from New Bethany, Old Sweetwater and Birchfield (Chilhowee Association) continued on-going work with Pastor Fred Aguilar Osoria and the Lamb of God Baptist Church at Las Mercedes. A new area was also explored for future ministry teams in a nearby community of Flórez. These teams reported fifteen (15) professions of faith!



All short-term mission volunteers took part in ministry activities that included Vacation Bible Schools, Bible Study, door-to-door witnessing, crusades and revivals. Some of the teams had the opportunity to share the Gospel at schools, recovery centers, jails, and protection centers for victims of violence; food bags and medical clinics were provided in the communities. Our prayers were with these volunteers as they served in various parts of Guatemala. We praise the Lord for what He has done!



Please join us as we pray for all mission volunteers and teams from the Churches of the Sweetwater Baptist Association that have participated or will be sharing the *Gospel of Christ* over the summer months here at home, throughout our state, across our country, and around our world.

WELCOME PASTOR OTTO: We are happy to announce that Pastor Otto Echeverría, will be visiting in the Sweetwater Baptist Association, **Aug 19-Sept 2**. Otto is the Pastor of First Baptist Church, Coatepeque, Guatemala, and the former Executive Director of the Guatemala Baptist Convention. He has worked closely with every Guatemalan mission team from our Association for over the past 10 years. You may want to visit with him, get an updated mission report of our partnership work in Guatemala or hear his message at one of his speaking appointments. You can also contact the Sweetwater Baptist Association office if you would like to schedule a day visit or weeknight or Saturday outing with Pastor Otto when he is available. To date, his schedule is as follows:



PREACHING/SPEAKING SCHEDULE:

Wed, Aug 19	7:00 PM	Long Ridge Baptist Church, Pastor Mitch Ingram
Sun, Aug 23	10:45 AM	Brittsville Baptist Church, Pastor Jake Evans
Sun, Aug 23	6:00 PM	New Bethany Baptist Church, Pastor Matthew Johnson
Mon, Aug 24	10:00 AM	Sweetwater Baptist Association, Pastors' Conference
Wed, Aug 26	7:00 PM	Poplar Bluff Baptist Church, Pastor Roman Hamilton
Sun, Aug 30	10:45 AM	Bethlehem Baptist Church, Pastor Zad Tomberlin
Sun, Aug 30	6:00 PM	Old Sweetwater Baptist Church, Pastor Richard Lane

Non-Speaking Visits:

Mon, Aug 31	10:00 AM	SBA, Pastors' Conference
Mon, Aug 31	7:00 PM	Notchey Creek Baptist Church, Revival

LOCAL MISSIONS: A

short-term mission team of volunteers from Bethlehem and Notchey Creek traveled to Cocke County in June to work with the *East Tennessee Baptist Association, the TBMB Disaster Relief and the Cocke County Long-Term Recovery Group*. This was part of long-term disaster recovery efforts by providing repair and cleanup in communities. It is estimated that 100 homes in the area are still needing to be repaired or rebuilt after recent floods or due to *Hurricane Helene* in 2024. Please continue to pray for the many people that suffered great loss through the damaging floods. Thank you to all for being part of missions here at home in our own state of Tennessee.



DISASTER RELIEF TEAM: Would you be interested in being part of a disaster relief team to work in Cocke County in **April 2027**? If so, please contact the Sweetwater Baptist Association office at one of the following:

Phone: 423.442.6604 or 423.442.6605 or

Email: becky.jones@bellsouth.net or sweetwaterassoci@bellsouth.net

Watch for additional information.



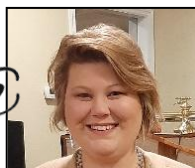
A MESSAGE FROM COCKE COUNTY LONG TERM RECOVERY GROUP:

A special thank you to Sweetwater Baptist Association of Monroe County, TN – just to the west and south, still proudly East Tennessee. Beyond a significant financial donation to our recovery work, they sent a team to spend a full week on the ground working directly on survivors' homes. Their generosity, both financial and physical, is a powerful reminder of what it means for East Tennessee to take care of East Tennessee. (Excerpt taken from *Cocke County, TN Recovery Newsletter*, July 2026.)



SBA WMU/Ladies Ministry News

Save
the
Date



The next WMU/Ladies Meeting will be held **Monday, November 2nd** at Bible Baptist Church, Tellico Plains.

WMU/LADIES MEETING
Monday, November 2, 7:00 pm
Bible Baptist Church, Tellico Plains

Ladies, please mark your calendars! You don't want to miss this meeting! Love in Christ, Rachel Thompson, Associational WMU/Ladies Ministry Director



GOLDEN OFFERING: The suggested date for the Week of Prayer for Tennessee Missions and Golden Offering is September 13-20. This is the annual state missions offering that provides invaluable financial support for ministries that help reach Tennesseans for Christ. 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.tnbaptist.org)

EVANGELISM: AWESOME AUGUST is a great time to focus on **LOCAL EVANGELISM**

Outreach and evangelism projects have been planned as churches across the Sweetwater Baptist Association will be sharing the Gospel of Christ during the month of August with families, neighbors, friends, and co-workers in communities and workplaces!

Awesome
August

Plan now to attend one of the many events planned for **AWESOME AUGUST**! Please remember, the Sweetwater Baptist Association has planned two (2) events, **August 3rd** for the **Old-Fashioned Prayer Meeting** and **August 25th** for the **1-Day Fan the Flames of Revival Services (3-locations)**. We look forward to seeing you at these meetings! (Updated **AWESOME AUGUST** calendar of events appears on front of this newsletter, on our website, and Facebook page.)

Ordinations/Anniversaries



On Sunday, July 12, 2026, **Beaty's Chapel Baptist Church** ordained **Hunter Debety** into the Gospel Ministry. Hunter has been called to serve as Pastor of Hiwassee Union Baptist Church in Reliance, TN. **John McDaniel** was also ordained as a Deacon of **Beaty's Chapel**. Join us in praying for both of these men as they begin a new season of ministry in the local church.

On Sunday, June 14, 2026, **Shady Grove Baptist Church** ordained **Luke Keller** into the Gospel Ministry. Luke has been called to serve as Pastor of Towee Baptist Church in Reliance, TN. Our prayers are with this young pastor and his congregation.



Youth News

YOUTH NEWS: 2027 SBA Youth Rally will be on **Saturday, March 13** at Notchey Creek Baptist Church. The guest speaker will be **Justin Worden** (Campus Pastor, Spirit City North Etowah) and music will be



provided by the **Notchey Creek Youth Praise Team**. We are happy to announce that **Bean & Bailey** will be



returning to entertain our students with lots of fun and laughter. Make plans to come to the 2027 Youth Rally!

Church News/Events/Information

CEDAR FORK: Everyone is invited to our **Ice Cream Social Taste-Off** on **Saturday, August 15** at 4:00 pm. Free homemade ice cream for everyone! Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place...call 865-235-2181 before August 12th to enter. Tasters can come anytime between 4:00-6:00 pm. (1780 Sweetwater Rd, Philadelphia).



Revival!

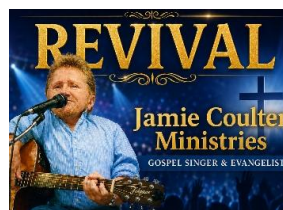
CITICO: Our **Revival** begins on July 26. Evangelists are Josh Sloan and Dustin Self. Pastor David Lane invites everyone to attend. Sunday Night begins at 6:00 pm and Weeknights begin at 7:00 pm. Prayer service is 30 minutes prior to service and there will be special singing nightly (2170 Citico Rd, Vonore).

CONCORD: Community

Cookout, Saturday, August 22, 6:00 pm. Food, Games, Fun & Fellowship! Everyone Welcome (3115 Upper Concord Rd, Ten Mile).



FAIRVIEW (TELLICO): We are happy to announce that **Rev. Phillip Laney** has become our new **Pastor**. We are happy to have Phillip and his family join our congregation.



HOWARD'S CHAPEL: Our **Revival** will be August 7-9 with the Skateboard Preacher, **Jamie Coulter**. Friday & Saturday begins at 7:00 pm, and Sunday is at 10:30 am, with lunch to follow (424 Old Citico Rd, Vonore).

MADISONVILLE, FIRST: Greater Vision will be in Concert on Sunday, August 30 at 6:00 pm. This is a free concert, and everyone is invited (139 College St, Madisonville).



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.



MT. ZION: Good Shepard Center **food boxes** will be distributed on Friday, July 17, 2:00-4:00 pm, in the church parking lot. Our WMU will distribute **backpacks with school supplies** on Saturday, July 18, 10:00am-2:00pm (2403 Hwy 360 in Vonore).



SHADY GROVE: Pastor BJ Wall invites all ordained men to join the Presbytery for the **Deacon Ordination** of Justin Wear on Sunday, August 9 at 2:00 pm. (1711 Mecca Pike, Tellico Plains).

NEW PROVIDENCE: *The New Providence Mission Center* provides clothing, food, hygiene items and more. The *Mission Center* is located in the old church building at 451 New Providence Rd, Tellico Plains. For more information or to donate, contact 423-519-6899, 423-337-1697, 423-295-4873.



SHOAL CREEK: We've had 4 baptisms this summer. Our **Homecoming** is September 6th.



UNION MCMINN: Upcoming Events... (314 County Rd 316, Niota)



- **Sunday Night Service/Mission Sharing:** August 2
- **Homecoming:** August 9
- **Junior Youth Night:** August 14, 6:00-8:00PM
- **Youth Trip/Kentucky Splash:** August 15
- **Observe Lord's Supper:** August 16
- **Hosting SBA 1-Day Revival:** August 25
- **OCC Celebration:** August 29



NOTCHEY CREEK: Upcoming Events... (5529 New Hwy 68, Madisonville).

- **VBS Kickoff/Refreshments & Waterslide:** July 19, 4pm (Please no swimsuits)
- **Second Harvest Food Distributions:** July 23 & August 27
- **TBMB WinTN for Christ:** August 13, 6pm
- **Community Cruise-In & Fish Fry:** Aug 29, 4pm-7pm (Fish Fry @ 5pm)
- **Revival/Bob Pitman:** Aug 30-Sept 3 (Sun-8:30am | 10:45am | 6pm; Weeknights 7pm)

OLD SWEETWATER: Upcoming Events... (2404 Hwy 11 N, Sweetwater)



- **Homecoming:** July 26, AM Service
- **Singing** (Saved by Grace): August 2, PM Service
- **Ice Cream Social/Singing:** August 16, PM Service
- **Youth Sunday:** August 30

VONORE: Our WMU is **collecting backpacks and women's large purses or bags.**



These bags are packed for the homeless men and women in Monroe County. We pack them with hygiene products, snacks, etc. and donate them to the *Homeless Management of Monroe County* to distribute as needed. Contact Paulette Summey to donate, summeyhot6@aol.com.

Heaven Bound Christian Bookstore

817 Englewood Rd, Madisonville

Store Hours:

Tues-Fri, 10am-4pm; Sat, 10am-2pm

Phone: 423-420-0750

rcbainesheavenbound@gmail.com

Bibles, Gifts, Church Supplies,
Special Orders and more



Sweetwater Baptist Association

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ASSOCIATIONAL OFFICERS

MODERATOR	VICE MODERATOR	Associational Council
Gabe Brannon	Rick Harris	Officers & Committee Chairmen
Committee on Nominations	Budget/Finance Committee	Evangelism Director
Steve Strickland, Chairman	Wendi Stakely, Chairperson	Shane Johnston
Mission Committee	Personnel Committee	Trustees
Danny Lingerfelt, Chairman	Donita Moore, Chairperson	Albert Graser, Chairman
Music Director		WMU/Ladies Director
Phillip Johnson		Rachel Thompson

NEWS FROM AROUND THE ASSOCIATION**Welcome New Pastors**

Josh Sloan.....Old Pond Hill

Director of Mission Visits/Miscellaneous:

Mt Isabella; Brittsville; Conasauga; Fellowship (Mother's Day); Mission Team Meetings, SBA Office, Poplar Bluff; Rocky Springs; Druid Hills; Concord; Clifton; Shelton Grove; Howard's Chapel; Big Creek; Shoal Creek; Tellico First; South Madisonville; Fairview (Tellico); Shady Grove; Union Hall; 411 Chapel; Watson Chapel; Old Sweetwater; Glenlock (Father's Day); Newport; Rural Vale
VBS: Madisonville First; Rocky Springs; Bethlehem; Vonore; Walnut Grove; Clifton; Christianburg; Bible; Miller's Chapel; New Macedonia; Lakeside; Mt Zion; Island Creek; Fairview Tabernacle; New Bethany; Murray's; Union McMinn; Cedar Valley

Please pray for our churches without pastors:

Cedar Valley

**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 to 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.

Upcoming Events

"Fulfil ye my joy, that you be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind."

--Philippians 2:2

AWESOME AUGUST!

Aug 3 Old Fashioned Prayer Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Shady Grove

Aug 13 TBMB WinTN — Notchey Creek, 6:00 p.m.

Aug 19-Sept 2 Pastor Otto visiting SBA from Guatemala

Aug 25 Church Clerk Training, SBA Office, 10:00 a.m.

Aug 25 One Day Revival — 3 locations

Sept 13-20 Week of Prayer for State Missions and Golden Offering

Sept 21 Pastor/Family Picnic, Notchey Creek Pavilion, 6:30 p.m.

Sept 23 See You at the Pole

Sept 28 Mission Committee Meeting, SBA Office, 6:30 p.m.

Oct 18 Day of Prayer for Sweetwater Baptist Association

Oct 19 SBA Annual Meeting, Rocky Springs, 6:30 Business Session, Worship Service to follow

(Meetings and events subject to change)

**WMU/Ladies Group**

Please check the Activities Director at 423-442-3990 regarding entrance at facility.

Madisonville Health & Rehab — Nursing Home Birthday Cake Schedule

July	Lakeside	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

**February 27, 2027****East Tennessee Ministry Summit**

(Conference for all Church Members & Leaders)

& Evangelism Rally

(Worship, Preaching & Singing)

Hosted by: **Notchey Creek Baptist Church**

(Watch for further details!)

**Mother's Day Offering for...**

Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes

Father's Day Offering for...

TENNESSEE BAPTIST ADULT HOMES
Showing What Love Is

Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions...

The Upper Room Christian Counseling, **Macy Small, M.A.**

112 Key Kile Rd, Sweetwater, TN 37874 865.414.3269

SBA Office Hours Monday-Thursday 8:30 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.

Next issue of The Messenger will be September/October.

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.