

# The MESSENGER of the Sweetwater Baptist Association



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

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Resident Interpreter Volunteer

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### Check Out Our Website:

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

Find us on **Facebook**

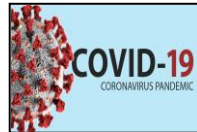
**Volume 10**

**September/October, 2020**

**Number 49**

### COVID-19 Update:

We thank you for your understanding during the unprecedented situation of the past few months. The SBA Office has attempted to follow guidelines and mandates by our local, state and federal governments. Over the past few months, we have evaluated information and statistics made available to us. Meetings and events had to be rescheduled or cancelled based on the data provided at the time. These were not easy decisions to make, however, we feel rulings were made in the best interest of our churches and congregations. We regret having to make these changes to our calendar of events. We look forward to continuing our work together as we plan, schedule and reschedule ministry opportunities, meetings and events.



- **Guatemala Mission Projects:** (June and September) rescheduled for 2021
- **Iowa Mission Projects:** (June) rescheduled for 2021
- **Youth Reach:** (July) rescheduled for 2021
- **Old Fashioned Prayer Meeting:** (August) Changed to on-line meeting
- **Church Growth & Development Conference:** (August) rescheduled for 2021
- **Pastor Picnic:** (September) Changed to drive-thru, pick-up bbq picnic

Churches of the Sweetwater Baptist Association  
**Welcome New Pastors and their families...**



**Pastor JOSH SLOAN**  
and wife Ashley  
**LOWER CHILHOWEE**



**Pastor B.J. WALL**  
and wife Diane  
**SHADY GROVE**



**Pastor ISAAC SPARKS**  
and wife Cassidy  
Ava Grace and Oakley  
**UNION GROVE**

We are praying for these dear pastors, their families and congregations as they share Christ with their communities.

## SWEETWATER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION 2020 Annual Meeting Monday, October 19

**ONE DAY  
TWO SESSIONS!**

Program subject to change

Hosted by: **Vonore Baptist Church**

Theme: *Our Compass, The Cross* 1 Corinthians 1:23

### • Business Session: 6:30 p.m.

- 6:00 Associational Council Report ..... Video Presentation
- 6:30 Welcome and Prayer ..... Pastor, Andrew Osakue
- Presentation of Gavel ..... Director of Missions, Tony Rutherford
- Call to Order ..... Moderator, Mitch Ingram
- Video Message from Executive Director-Treasurer, TBMB . Dr. Randy Davis
- TBMB ..... Representative
- Business Session ..... Moderator
- Constitution of Body ..... Sheri Stephens
- Report of Program Committee ..... Vernon Webb
- Director of Missions Report ..... Tony Rutherford
- Appointment of Committee on Nominations..... Moderator
- Election of Officers ..... Vice-Moderator, Lewis Jones
- Committee on Nominations ..... Richard Lane
- Treasurer's Report ..... Sheri Stephens
- Presentation of Budget..... Trey Ferguson
- Missions Committee Report/ Recommendations ..... Steve Moore
- Presentation of 2021 Calendar/Recommendations . Director of Missions
- Memorial Report..... Video Presentation
- Adjourn for Worship..... Vice-Moderator

### • Worship Session: following Business Session

- Welcome and Prayer ..... Vice-Moderator, Lewis Jones
- Congregational Hymn..... Phillip Johnson
- Offering..... Associational Choir
- Special Music ..... Associational Choir
- Message ..... Moderator, Mitch Ingram
- Benediction..... Incoming Moderator

### 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 1<sup>st</sup>*

## Director of Missions

The hot, hazy, humid days of August usually means that the pestilent days of flu are far behind us.



Typically, teams would have returned from Guatemala and Iowa, while Vacation Bible Schools are put to rest. Due to COVID-19, this summer has been like no other. Churches are struggling on how to effectively reach the lost of our communities. Many churches are attempting to relaunch in-person worship. Presently, we have several churches who are combating this dreaded outbreak within their fellowship. Many have turned to 2 Chronicles for the solution to this dilemma, "If My people, which are called by My name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

It is easy for us to look to the lost perverted generation around us and say, "It is your fault." However, read the above verse again. It is addressed to the children of God, not to the "Gentile." This scripture is addressed to the church of today. You and I profess to be His people. Therefore, we are the one who needs to repent, fall on our face seeking God's grace and forgiveness. We are summoned to turn and seek a refreshing way of life that God can use to impact our world for His glorification. The Good Father still desires to pour His blessings on His Children, bring a restored relationship, and prosper His Kingdom. Although, we need to remember that we exist in a real world that is broken. Christianity offers a life of suffering and often struggles. To deny this is to deny the teaching of Jesus, who calls us to bear a cross not a recliner.

I am often asked, "What should we do?" or "If you were me, what would you do?" Hindsight is 20/20, but only God truly has future vision. He and He alone possess the knowledge of what we will experience tomorrow. WE NEED TO CALL GOD'S PEOPLE TO PRAYER! Too many times we gather to worship but leave our minds and hearts elsewhere. We often assemble with only smoldering embers, flames are extinguished, souls are parched, and emotions are drained to empty. Countless days have turned to weeks and years without a cry to the Lord. Now is the time for a "fresh wind" from above to blow over the embers that glow, souls that thirst, and emotions to praise the LORD. We look for singing and preaching to bring about this revival. However, again reread the verse above. God calls us to humble ourselves, pray, seek, and turn then God responds. Sounds like an invitation to simply fall on our face and call out to Jesus. This is not a shouting hallelujah "worship experience." It is a soul searching, repenting, being broken Isaiah 6 confrontation before the Lord, who is high and lifted. Get it? The angels are singing, God is inviting Isaiah into His presence, and Isaiah understands that He is not worthy, Isaiah does not speak until God grants permission, and his words reflect his unworthiness of being in the presence of God. I believe this is God's answer to the question of what should we do?

My heart is broken for the path our present world situation has placed you and the congregation you may serve. However, I believe that God already knew of this virus before it was released in China. I also believe that He knows your character and your coping abilities. We are not on this journey alone. My God promises that He will never leave or forsake His Children. All that God is, is available for us to draw from and lean on, if we incorporate God's principles in our lives.

Public prayer does not seek to accomplish what private communion with God can accomplish. I have been guilty of simply going through the motions and saying words but failing to be broken before the Lord God Almighty, Creator, Wonderful Savior. For that and so much more, I REPENT! ---Tony Rutherford

**BIBLICAL STUDIES CLASS:** The next *Biblical Studies Class* at the Sweetwater Baptist Association is scheduled to begin on **September 1<sup>st</sup>**. The course study will be *A Pastor's Tool Belt* and will be taught by Dr. John Powers. *Topics will include Sermon Preparation; Leadership Development; Ministry of Presence (Visitation); Unique Ministry Opportunities (Weddings/Funerals); Stewardship Development; Avoiding Conflict; Personal Development;* and others. This will be a non-credit course and the cost of the class will be \$20.00 per person. 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.



**DRIVE-THRU PASTOR & FAMILY PICNIC:** We are trying something new this year! Pastors, we have planned a *Drive-Thru Picnic* for you and your family. This will

be a BBQ dinner on **Monday evening, September 14<sup>th</sup>**. **Curbside delivery** will be available by your Director of Missions at the **Sweetwater Baptist Association Office, 3:30-6:30 p.m.** This is a special take-out picnic meal for the pastor and his family. We need to know how many plates to make, so reservations are required and times for pickup are needed for the meal. Please contact the SBA Office at 442-6604 by August 31<sup>st</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 seminary extension students, retired pastors, associational officers and leadership, as well as their spouses.



Aaron Wilburn 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](mailto:becky.jones@bellsouth.net) or [sweetwaterassoci@bellsouth.net](mailto:sweetwaterassoci@bellsouth.net).

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**SENIOR CHRISTMAS ADULT SHOW:** Make plans now to see **Christian comedian, Aaron Wilburn** while he is in our area. The Sweetwater Baptist

*Aaron Wilburn – in Person*  
*Monday, December 7 - 10:30 a.m.*  
*Senior Adult Christmas Show*  
Vonore Baptist Church, Vonore  
*Everyone Invited*



Association will feature Aaron as he shares at our annual *Senior Adult Christmas Show*. This event will be held at **Vonore Baptist Church on Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m.** This is a free event; and all ages are invited.

**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.

**Sweetwater Baptist Association & Yael Adventure: Israel 2022 Tour**

Hosted by Tony Rutherford: An *Israel 2022* tour is being planned for January 20-29. Please contact the Sweetwater Baptist Association for additional information and registration forms, etc. if you are interested in participating in the 2022 trip to Israel.



Church leaders, you may want to consider a *2022 Tour of Israel* for your pastor and his wife for *Pastor Appreciation Day* or for a *Pastor's Christmas gift*. If so, please contact the SBA Office for further details.

**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 2020**

Church	Total	Church	Total
411 Chapel	0.00	New Bethany	3836.48
Altoona	0.00	New Macedonia	1400.00
Antioch	250.00	New Providence	4666.93
Beaty's Chapel	0.00	North Sweetwater	953.11
Bethlehem	10,632.11	Notchey Creek	4498.10
Big Creek	500.00	Oak Grove	3524.17
Calvary	876.82	Oakland	300.00
Cane Creek	2000.00	Old Pond Hill	100.00
Cedar Fork	4837.03	Old Sweetwater	1000.00
Cedar Valley	8155.59	Paint Rock	1100.00
Christianburg	545.05	Piney Grove	500.00
Citico	662.80	Poplar Bluff	1947.35
Clifton	225.00	Reed Springs	1165.34
Community	476.63	Rocky Springs	4000.00
Compromise	500.00	Rural Vale	3698.75
Conasauga	1100.00	Shady Grove	400.00
Concord	1234.10	Shelton Grove	1826.76
Delano	3116.88	Shoal Creek	672.38
Druid Hills	0.00	South Madisonville	1000.00
Ebenezer	509.77	Sweetwater First	3500.00
Fairview	240.00	Tellico	1200.00
Fairview Tabernacle	13,365.50	Tellico First	4813.00
Fellowship	1167.00	Tevis Springs	0.00
Glenlock	2333.32	Towee Falls	1500.00
Gregory's Chapel	1000.00	Trinity	500.00
Hopewell Springs	667.00	Union Grove	1200.00
Howards Chapel	0.00	Union Hall	525.00
Island Creek	2700.00	Union McMinn	4000.00
Lakeside	1200.00	Unity	400.00
Long Ridge	1000.00	Upper Shady Grove	500.00
Lower Chilhowee	0.00	Vonore	19,537.66
Macedonia	300.00	Walnut Grove	1999.26
Madisonville, First	4166.70	Watson Chapel	2080.00
Maple Springs	500.00	Westside	200.00
Miller's Chapel	1000.00	Williamsburg	540.01
Mt. Calvary	905.21	TBMB	7820.00
Mt. Isabella	0.00	Miscellaneous	430.10
Mt. Zion	5151.41		
Murray's	1727.13		
		Total	\$160,379.45

**SWEETWATER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION  
Proposed Budget for 2020-2021**

I. ASSOCIATIONAL ADMINISTRATION	Budget for 2019-2020	Proposed Budget for 2020-2021	Increase/Decrease
DOM Package (3% increase)			
DOM Salary/Housing	55,888.00	57,565.00	+1,677.00
DOM Benefits	7,966.00	8,205.00	+239.00
DOM Business Expenses	11,240.00	11,577.00	+337.00
Administrative Assistant (3% increase)	26,554.00	27,351.00	+797.00
Adm. Asst Retirement (Salary Reduction)	2,300.00	2,369.00	+69.00
Adm. Asst Travel	300.00	309.00	+9.00
Ministry Assistant/Receptionist (3% increase)	23,565.00	24,272.00	+707.00
Ministry Assistant/Receptionist Retirement (Salary Reduction)	1,260.00	1,298.00	+38.00
Ministry Asst/Receptionist Travel	300.00	309.00	+9.00
Staff Social Security	4,583.00	4,708.00	+125.00
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	
<b>II. ASSOCIATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS</b>			
Church Growth & Development	1,000.00	1,000.00	
Vacation Bible School	1,650.00	1,650.00	
Mens Ministry/Brotherhood	1,500.00	750.00	-750.00
Disaster Relief	900.00	100.00	-800.00
Womens/Ladies/WMU	500.00	500.00	
Children	500.00	500.00	
Biblical Studies	1,000.00	1,000.00	
Evangelism	1,650.00	2,500.00	+850.00
Local Evangelism/Outreach	1,650.00	1,650.00	
Music	200.00	200.00	
Mission Development	1,500.00	1,500.00	
Marriage & Family Counseling	200.00	0.00	-200.00
Student Scholarship (High School Seniors)	2,200.00	2,200.00	
Senior Adult	1,000.00	1,000.00	
Pastor Ministry	2,300.00	2,300.00	
Media Center	200.00	200.00	
Student/Youth	1,000.00	2,500.00	+1,500.00
<b>III. ASSOCIATIONAL MEETING</b>			
Annual Meeting	900.00	900.00	
<b>IV. ASSOCIATIONAL OFFICE MAINTENANCE</b>			
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	3,000.00	
Insurance (Office)	3,300.00	3,300.00	
<b>V. MISCELLANEOUS</b>			
General Miscellaneous	650.00	650.00	
Christmas Gift (DOM)	500.00	500.00	
Christmas Gift (AA)	500.00	500.00	
Christmas Gift (RC)	500.00	500.00	
The Tennessee Baptist Convention provides TBC Supplement for the Sweetwater Baptist Association per terms of Covenant Agreement. <b>Total Monthly \$782.00/Annually \$9384.00</b>			
<b>TOTALS (2 1/2 % overall increase)</b>	<b>\$181,616.00</b>	<b>\$186,223.00</b>	<b>+\$4607.00</b>

+Increase -Decrease \*\*\*New Item

The proposed overall budget INCREASE is \$4607.00 or a total budget of \$186,223.00. This is a proposed budget increase of 2 1/2%.

# Sweetwater Baptist Association

696 Anderson Street  
Madisonville, TN 37354

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## ASSOCIATIONAL OFFICERS, 2019-2020

<b>MODERATOR</b> MITCH INGRAM	<b>VICE MODERATOR</b> LEWIS JONES	<b>Associational Council</b> Officers & Committee Chairmen
<b>Committee on Nominations</b> Richard Lane, Chairman	<b>Children's Director</b> Kendra McDonald	<b>Constitution Committee</b> Charles Ridenour, Chairman
<b>Finance Committee</b> Trey Ferguson, Chairman	<b>Disaster Relief Director</b> Jim Jollay	<b>Evangelism Committee</b> Gerald Atkins, Chairman
<b>Mission Committee</b> Steve Moore, Chairman	<b>Men's Ministry Director</b> Bryan Coffey	<b>Program Committee</b> Vernon Webb, Chairman
<b>Personnel Committee</b> Deborah Dalton, Chairperson	<b>Music Director</b> Phillip Johnson	<b>Scholarship Committee</b> Greg Allen, Chairman
<b>Trustees</b> Frank Hicks, Chairman	<b>Pastor Advisor</b> Frank Hicks	<b>Youth Council</b> Charles "Bud" Boring, Chairman
<b>WMU/Ladies Director</b> Charlotte Hollinghead	<b>Vacation Bible School Directors</b> Bryan & Kim Williamson	

### NEWS FROM AROUND THE ASSOCIATION

#### Welcome New Pastors

Lower Chilhowee.....Josh Sloan      Union Grove..... Isaac Sparks  
Shady Grove.....B.J. Wall

#### Director of Mission Visits:

Lakeside (Homecoming); Fairview Tabernacle; Conasauga; Macedonia (Homecoming)  
Shelton Grove; Gregory's Chapel; Shoal Creek (Pastor Ordination); Mt Zion (VBS)

(Online)

Northport, Delano, Oak Grove, New Bethany, South Madisonville,  
Vonore, Rocky Springs, Hopewell Springs, Glenlock

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

Conasauga, Fairview (Tellico), Fairview Tabernacle, Murrays, Trinity



### The Summit:

#### Tennessee Baptist Convention

Annual Gathering of Tennessee Baptists

November 9-11, 2020

www.tnbaptist.org



## 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 1 .....Biblical Studies Classes begins @ SBA Office, 6:30 p.m.
  - September 6-13 ....Week of Prayer for State Missions and Golden Offering
  - September 14 .....Pastor/Family Picnic, Drive thru @ SBA Office 3:30-6:30 p.m.
  - September 23 .....See You at the Pole
  - September 28 .....Missions Committee Meeting, SBA Office, 6:30 p.m.
  - October 19 .....Annual Meeting, Vonore, Business Session 6:30 p.m.
  - October 19 .....Annual Meeting, Vonore, Worship Service following Business Session
  - November 2 .....WMU/Ladies Meeting, New Bethany, 7:00 p.m.
  - November 8-11 .....The Summit, Tennessee Baptist Convention, Brentwood Baptist Church
  - Nov 29-Dec 6 .....Week of Prayer for International Missions and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
  - December 7 .....Christmas Show, Vonore, 10:30 a.m.
  - December 7 .....Pastor/Wife Christmas Banquet, Vonore, 6:30 p.m.
- (All meetings and events subject to change)



### Madisonville Health & Rehab - Birthday Cake Schedule

August	411 Chapel	September	Mt. Zion	October	Notchey Creek
November	Bethlehem	December	New Bethany		

**SBA Pastor's Conference**, Monday Mornings, 10:00 a.m.  
SBA Office Building, Madisonville, Everyone Welcome!

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

## 2021 Association Evangelism Rally

**Monday & Tuesday, January 18-19**



**Dr. Bartholomew Orr**, Conference Speaker  
Senior Pastor, Brown Missionary Baptist Church, Southaven, MS

#### SPECIAL MUSIC

Monday: Associational Choir, (under direction of Phillip Johnson)  
Tuesday: The Hymnsmen Quartet

Hosted by: **Notchey Creek Baptist Church**, Madisonville, TN

Theme: *Our Compass: The Cross*

**EVERYONE INVITED!**

**Two Nights!**  
6:45 p.m.

Tennessee Baptist Mission Board presents via ZOOM Conference

### PLAYBOOK 2020

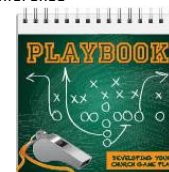
*Discovering Your Church's Game plan*

Sunday School and Discipleship Event

**Saturday August 29**

8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Central time

[www.tnbaptist.org/events/discipleship-conference-4/](http://www.tnbaptist.org/events/discipleship-conference-4/)



for more information