




Check Out Our Website
www.sweetwaterbaptistassociation.com
Visit us on Facebook
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 Monday-Thursday
 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

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Volume 14 **September/October, 2024** **Number 70**

SWEETWATER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

2024 Annual Meeting

Monday, October 21

Hosted by:

First Baptist Church, Sweetwater

Theme: *My Light and My Salvation* Psalm 27:1

● Business Session: 6:30 p.m.

● Brief Intermission

● Worship Session following Business Session

One Day ... Two Sessions
2024 Annual Meeting Program and
Proposed 2024-25 Budget Included in Newsletter

ON THE AGENDA... Having completed a time of watch-care, the final recommendation for membership to the Sweetwater Baptist Association for Bible Baptist Church (Tellico Plains) will be presented by the Missions Committee. The initial petition request for membership to the SBA from Bible Baptist Church was accepted at the April Executive Board Meeting. This church has been a participating church and had full privileges except voting since that time.




LOVE OFFERING
TO BENEFIT ORPHANAGE
IN HAITI

Many of you will remember our Association of Churches partnered with Pastor Gaetan Alcegaire and the Yahve Shamma Orphanage in Haiti after the devastating earthquake in 2010. Even though that partnership officially ended in 2016, we have continued to correspond with Pastor Gaetan. We recently learned of the great need for food and support for the 43 children currently in the care at the orphanage. Would you and your church please be part of this ministry by receiving a special love offering for the Haiti orphanage?

SWEETWATER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Retirement Seminar

MONDAY, AUGUST 26
6:30 P.M.




DR. ROGER (SING) OLDHAM
 Pastor Engagement
 Tennessee Baptist Mission Board

- Ways to Prepare for Retirement
- Financial Security, Planning
- Savings, Retirement Needs
- All Ages...Savings Matters

This seminar is available for all pastors, church staff, and church employees. No matter whether you are new to the retirement program or preparing for the age of retirement...EVERYONE IS INVITED TO ATTEND.

For more information, call
423-442-6604



MEETING TO BE HELD AT
SBA OFFICE
696 ANDERSON ST
MADISONVILLE, TN

Old-Fashioned
PRAYER MEETING

Monday, August 5 - 7:00 pm



SPEAKER

Brandon Wilcox
Pastor New Zion Baptist Church

SPECIAL MUSIC

Conasauga Baptist Church Singers

DELANO BAPTIST CHURCH

144 Carolina Ave. Delano, TN



**Director
of
Missions**

PLEASE TOUCH
Adults on
leisurely
shopping trips
enjoy
browsing



through unique gift shops. It is not unusual to see posted signs of warning, especially in China or glassware shops. Often the eye level card is embossed with elegant handwriting, and reads, "DO NOT TOUCH." Other store owners use the brazen approach, "You break it, you buy it." There is something about these little pieces of sculpture that catches everyone's attention. Before one has time to resist the temptation, a hand reaches for the breakable item. We are not satisfied to admire the precious handiwork of the craftsman from a distance. We have to pick up the priceless ornament, turn it upside down, spin it around a couple of times, and then place it back where we found it. No wonder our children are confused when they start to reach for a bright colored object. Before the adult thinks, he shouts, "NO!" and slaps at the little hands. They are only repeating what they have learned from us. These types of stores bother me. The store owners know that when we enter their place of business, the first thing we are going to do is to *touch* something. I wonder if the store owners are hoping we will drop and break the item? Most of us cannot afford the price of such trinkets.

There is one type of store I feel safe in; the toy store. As a parent I feel such a relief when I first read the embossed card that begs: "PLEASE TOUCH." Looking around, the parent sees a train set on a little table. It does not have a card that says, "For Children Only." I am told that the train pushes so smoothly. Of course, I do not know for myself. It brings a smile to a parent's face to see all the children having an enjoyable time. There is no shouting from the parents, except when it comes time to leave.

"PLEASE TOUCH," I cannot help but believe these are the words our Heavenly Father would use. When Thomas questioned the reality of the resurrection of Jesus, he said he would not believe unless he could *touch* the nail prints in Christ's hand. About that time Jesus appeared in the room. What did He say to Thomas? "PLEASE TOUCH!" Our resurrected Lord is still standing with out-reached hands. He is reaching for you. Your pulse has quickened, your hands are wet, and your throat is dry; He is the one who speaks, "PLEASE TOUCH."

The seventy-five churches of the Sweetwater Baptist Association were represented by two mission teams in Guatemala and a team in Iowa. The purpose of these trips was to *touch* people for the cause of Christ. A total of fifty-three people willfully surrendered to God's will to invest their time, money, and talent into the hands of our Lord. God used the locals as well as these missionaries to introduce forty new converts into the kingdom of heaven, distribute bags of food to hungry people, provide medical treatment to hundreds of suffering individuals, and present the story of Jesus to a multitude of children.

There are forty-three children in Haiti that desperately need a *touch* of nourishment. The crisis situation in Haiti is causing a

desperate plea for food from the children in the orphanage the Sweetwater Baptist Association helped to start in 2010. Safe channels have been secured for sending money and purchasing food. We hope to raise enough funds to provide food for the children for approximately two years. Your generosity in providing in the past is an indication of what you can do now. Will you please consider a special offering to reach out to meet this need? Can you hear the cry? **PLEASE TOUCH!** --Tony

**AUGUST IS
HIGH
BAPTISM
MONTH!**



Remember to call the Sweetwater Baptist Association office at 423-442-6604 or email:

Becky Jones at becky.jones@bellsouth.net or
Sheri Stephens at sweetwaterassoci@bellsouth.net

to give us your baptism numbers.

Victory Goal 350
Jubilee Goal 425
Hallelujah Goal 500

We look forward to hearing from you!

**BIBLICAL STUDIES CLASS:
THE ARMOR OF GOD: BEING
READY FOR BATTLE**

This Study is Designed for Pastors, Teachers & Those Desiring a Little Deeper Study
Class Cost: \$20.00
Register at first class or call 423-442-6604 to pre-register



8-Week Study
Tuesdays @ 6:30 PM
September 10 - October 29
Class Instructor: Donald L. Parker



PASTOR & FAMILY PICNIC: Just a reminder! Pastors, please contact the SBA Office at 442-6604 or email becky.jones@bellsouth.net to confirm a number in your family that will be attending the *Pastor/Family Picnic!* Pastors and their families

are invited to join us for the Sweetwater Baptist Association, *Pastor & Family Picnic* on **Monday evening, September 23rd at 6:30 p.m.** This event will be held at the Notchey Creek Baptist Church, Pavilion Picnic Area. **Reservations must be received by September 3 for the barbeque picnic/meal.** We look forward to seeing you at this gathering planned especially for our pastors and their families.



PASTORS AND WIVES CHRISTMAS BANQUET: Mark your calendar now for **Monday evening, December 9th at 6:30 p.m.** for the **Annual Pastors and Wives Christmas Banquet!** *We have a new host location this*

year! The catered meal/banquet will be held at Union-McMinn Baptist Church in Nota.

Our invitation is extended to retired pastors, associational officers and leadership, as well as their spouses, in addition to our pastors and their wives.

We are so excited that The Lore Family will return again this year to be our special musical guest for the evening. This southern gospel, singing family from Ohio were such a blessing last year. Our pastors enjoyed this group so much and we know you will be blessed by their coming to share again this year.



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 the meal to becky.jones@bellsouth.net or sweetwaterassoci@bellsouth.net

THE LORE FAMILY *In person*
Monday, December 9, 10:30 am.
Senior Adult Christmas Show
 NEW LOCATION.....
Union McMinn Baptist Church, Niota
Everyone Invited

SENIOR ADULT CHRISTMAS SHOW: We want to personally invite you to make plans now to see, **THE LORE FAMILY!** The Sweetwater Baptist Association will feature this southern gospel singing family at our annual *Senior Adult Christmas Show.* This event will be held at **Union McMinn Baptist Church in Niota** on **Monday, December 9th at 10:30 a.m.**



The Lore Family was with us last year! We know you will enjoy this family as they return for our free, annual *Senior Adult Christmas Show.* **THE LORE FAMILY** sing well-known gospel classics, along with their own songs such as, *The World Needs A Song, Didn't He Promise, I Bring You Jesus* and their first *Top 20* song, *He Still Bears*

the Scars. Be sure and check out their music online at <http://www.thelorefamilyministries.com>

You will not want to miss this special Christmas music presentation! Plan to bring your church groups. Everyone is invited to what we know will be an outstanding Christmas Show on **Monday morning, December 9th!** **Please announce in your church! This is a free event; and all ages are invited.**

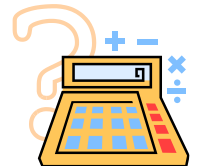
OCTOBER is Pastor Appreciation Month

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.

ATTENTION CHURCH CLERKS:

Completed Annual Church Profiles (ACP's) and Messenger Cards are due October 3rd.

CHURCH CLERKS: A Church Clerk Training is planned for **Tuesday, September 10th** at the Sweetwater Baptist Association Office. The conference will be held at 10:00 a.m. and again at 6:30 p.m.



This training comes just in time as *Annual Church Profile (ACP)* packets and *Messenger cards* for 2024 are being distributed for completion. ACP packets should have already been picked up. For 2024, a printed packet is available for each church. If you requested the digital version this year, those have just been emailed to you. However, you are also welcome to pick up the printed packet if you like. All forms are due back by **October 3rd.**

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, by October 3rd.

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.

**Program for the 2024 Annual Meeting of the
Sweetwater Baptist Association**

Theme: *My Light and My Salvation* -- Psalm 27:1

Director of Missions **Vice Moderator** **Moderator**
Tony Rutherford Jamie Johnson David Lane

Celebrating 194 Years... 1830-2024

Monday Evening, October 21, 2024

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Sweetwater, 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*
Tennessee Baptist Mission Board
- Welcome and Prayer* *Jason Pounds*
Pastor, First Baptist Church, Sweetwater
- Presentation of Gavel*..... *Director of Missions*
- Call to Order* *David Lane*
Moderator (Pastor, Citico Baptist Church)
- Business Session*..... *Moderator*
- Constitution of Body*..... *Becky Jones*
Clerk (Member, First Baptist Church, Madisonville)
- Appointment Committee on Nominations*..... *Moderator*
- Election of Officers*..... *Jamie Johnson*
Vice-Moderator (Pastor, Delano Baptist Church)
- Committee on Nominations* *Joel Tilson*
Chairman Committee on Nominations (Pastor, Cedar Valley Baptist Church, Sweetwater)
- Mission Committee Recommendation*..... *Rick Harris*
Mission Committee Chairman (Pastor, South Madisonville Baptist Church, Madisonville)
- Treasurer's Report*..... *Sheri Stephens*
Treasurer (Member, Notchey Creek Baptist Church)
- Presentation of Budget*..... *Richard Parker*
Budget Committee Chairman (Pastor, First Baptist Church, Tellico Plains)
- Director of Missions Report* *Tony Rutherford*
- Presentation of 2024 Calendar* *Director of Missions*
- Recommendation/Presentation(s)* *Director of Missions*
- Old Business* *Vice-Moderator*
- New Business* *Vice-Moderator*
- Adjourn* *Vice-Moderator*

Brief Intermission

Monday Evening, October 21, 2024

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Sweetwater, Tennessee
Worship Session

- Congregational Hymn*.... *Sweetwater, First Baptist Church*
- Welcome and Prayer*..... *Jamie Johnson*
Vice-Moderator (Pastor, Delano Baptist Church)
- Offertory Hymn*..... *Sweetwater, First Baptist Church*
- Special Music*..... *Abigail Millsaps*
Member (Citico Baptist Church)
- Moderator's Message*..... *David Lane*
Moderator (Pastor, Citico Baptist Church)
- Benediction* *Director of Missions*

(Program is subject to change.)

SWEETWATER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION Proposed Budget for 2024-2025	Budget for 2023-2024	Proposed Budget for 2024-2025	Increase/ Decrease
I. ASSOCIATIONAL ADMINISTRATION			
DOM Package			
DOM Salary/Housing	61,705.00	63,590.00	+ 1,885.00
DOM Benefits	10,605.00	11,805.00	+ 1,200.00
DOM Business Expenses	11,577.00	11,577.00	
Administrative Assistant	28,492.00	29,317.00	+ 825.00
Adm. Asst Retirement (Salary Reduction)	4,800.00	5,400.00	+ 600.00
Adm. Asst Travel	309.00	309.00	
Ministry Assistant/Receptionist	26,313.00	27,029.00	+ 716.00
Ministry Assistant/Receptionist Retirement (Salary Reduction)	2,400.00	3,000.00	+ 600.00
Ministry Asst/Receptionist Travel	309.00	309.00	
Staff Social Security	5,302.00	5,512.00	+ 210.00
Postal Expenses	2,100.00	2,100.00	
Office Supplies	1,680.00	1,680.00	
Computer/Software	3,000.00	3,000.00	
Office Equipment/Copier Maintenance	1,800.00	1,800.00	
New Equipment (including Computers)	4,000.00	4,000.00	
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	600.00	600.00	
Womens/Ladies/WMU	1,500.00	1,500.00	
Children	500.00	500.00	
Biblical Studies	1,000.00	1,000.00	
Evangelism	5,000.00	5,000.00	
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	1,500.00	1,500.00	
Pastor Ministry	3,000.00	3,000.00	
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	3,750.00	3,750.00	
Insurance (Office)	5,000.00	7,000.00	+ 2,000.00
V. MISCELLANEOUS			
General Miscellaneous	650.00	650.00	
Christmas Gift (DOM)	1,000.00	1,000.00	
Christmas Gift (AA)	1,000.00	1,000.00	
Christmas Gift (RC)	1,000.00	1,000.00	
Staff Bonus 5-year	0.00	+ 1,500.00	+ 1,500.00***
The Tennessee Baptist Convention provides TBC Supplement for the Sweetwater Baptist Association per terms of Covenant Agreement. Total Monthly \$625.00/Annually \$7500.00			
TOTALS (4% overall increase)	\$217,422.00	\$226,958.00	+ 9,536.00

+Increase -Decrease ***New Item

Proposed changes for Proposed Budget for 2024-2025:

- (a) Increase DOM by \$3085.00 (To be distributed by employee: Salary\$943.00; Housing \$942.00; Retirement \$1200.00)
 - (b) Increase Administrative by \$1425.00 (To be distributed by employee: Salary \$825.00; Retirement \$600.00)
 - (c) Increase Ministry Assistant by \$1316.00 (To be distributed by employee: Salary \$716.00; Retirement \$600.00)
 - (d) Increase Staff Social Security (Employer) by \$210.00 or a total of \$5512.00
 - (e) Increase Insurance (Office) by \$2,000.00 or a total of \$7,000.00
 - (f) Add new line item for \$1500.00 for *Staff Bonus 5-year*
- 4% overall increase with total increase of \$9536.00; Total Proposed Budget \$226,958.00

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: October, 2023-July, 2024

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	25.00	250.00
Beauty's Chapel	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00
Bethlehem	9,825.50	583.00	583.00	583.00	583.00	12,157.50
Bible Baptist	500.00	0.00	0.00	800.00	0.00	1,300.00
Big Creek	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Calvary	60.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	60.00
Cane Creek	1,200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	2,000.00
Cedar Fork	2,884.44	471.94	396.76	479.22	479.92	4,712.28
Cedar Valley	5,483.77	1,902.15	0.00	1,654.47	778.60	9,818.99
Christiansburg	2,079.70	643.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,722.70
Citico	295.45	39.20	42.05	48.25	58.95	483.90
Clifton	150.00	0.00	50.00	25.00	25.00	250.00
Community	1,194.15	60.57	79.08	64.08	99.75	1,497.63
Compromise	300.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	500.00
Conasauga	1,500.00	600.00	0.00	600.00	300.00	3,000.00
Concord	1,386.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,386.07
Delano	1,977.15	446.94	303.23	319.63	405.41	3,452.36
Druid Hills	500.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	900.00
Ebenezer	107.00	80.00	125.00	30.00	95.00	437.00
Fairview	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fairview Tabernacle	9,000.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	15,000.00
Fellowship	989.38	140.81	108.30	0.00	255.18	1,493.67
Glenock	2,004.00	334.00	334.00	334.00	334.00	3,340.00
Gregory's Chapel	600.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	1,000.00
Hopewell Springs	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
Howards Chapel	1,000.00	400.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,400.00
Island Creek	1,500.00	600.00	0.00	600.00	0.00	2,700.00
Lakeside	300.00	300.00	0.00	0.00	300.00	900.00
Long Ridge	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00
Lower Chilhowee	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00
Macedonia	400.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	400.00
Madisonville, First	2,500.02	416.67	0.00	833.34	416.67	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	622.37	93.06	119.49	88.08	84.27	1,007.27
Mt. Isabella	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mt. Zion	3,739.20	558.40	724.70	563.25	642.46	6,228.01
Murray's	2,406.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,406.00
New Bethany	2,597.19	579.16	556.08	409.84	411.78	4,554.05
New Macedonia	1,200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	2,000.00
New Providence	4,767.48	828.86	881.15	736.30	978.55	8,192.34
New Zion	300.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	150.00	450.00
North Sweetwater	460.46	188.33	137.65	116.70	102.11	1,005.25
Notchey Creek	4,397.90	644.31	682.86	753.86	568.89	7,047.82
Oak Grove	2,578.10	356.76	415.38	314.20	315.48	3,979.92
Oakland	400.00	200.00	0.00	0.00	200.00	800.00
Old Pond Hill	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
Old Sweetwater	500.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00	1,000.00
Paint Rock	660.00	110.00	110.00	110.00	110.00	1,100.00
Piney Grove	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
Poplar Bluff	300.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	700.00
Reed Springs	1,534.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,534.00
Rocky Springs	4,200.00	0.00	400.00	400.00	0.00	5,000.00
Rural Vale	2,136.11	873.82	688.50	461.16	338.19	4,497.78
Shady Grove	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	1,000.00
Shelton Grove	1,152.21	428.70	0.00	478.28	0.00	2,059.19
Shoal Creek	635.00	288.00	0.00	0.00	266.00	1,189.00
South Madisonville	600.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	1,000.00
Sweetwater, First	2,100.00	350.00	350.00	350.00	350.00	3,500.00
Tellico	1,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,500.00
Tellico, First	2,955.00	589.00	471.00	467.00	561.00	5,043.00
Tevis Springs	425.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	425.00
Towee 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	840.00	120.00	120.00	0.00	240.00	1,320.00
Union Hall	465.00	0.00	0.00	70.00	106.00	641.00
Union McMinn	2,400.00	400.00	400.00	400.00	400.00	4,000.00

Unity	150.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	150.00
Upper Shady Grove	300.00	50.00	50.00	0.00	50.00	450.00
Vonore	10,498.98	2,570.77	1,973.11	0.00	2,085.93	17,128.79
Walnut Grove	751.31	751.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,502.62
Watson Chapel	1,000.02	166.67	166.67	0.00	0.00	1,333.36
Westside	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
Williamsburg	270.28	56.86	0.00	46.39	0.00	373.53
TBMB	4,068.00	626.00	626.00	626.00	626.00	6,572.00
Misc Interest	162.78	22.22	23.39	0.00	50.75	259.14
Total Income	115,459.02	20,495.51	14,242.00	15,887.05	15,893.89	181,977.87

CONNECTION: Please mark your calendar for **September 13-15** for **CONNECTION FOR GIRLS**. This is Tennessee Baptist's mission event for middle and high school girls. This event is designed to help young ladies develop a love for missions. Pre-registration is required, so visit <https://www.tnbaptist.org/event/connection/> to get more information or to register.



Also, mark your calendar for **Monday, November 4th** for the **Associational WMU/Ladies Ministry Meeting**. It will be held at Mt Zion Baptist Church in Vonore. We are already working on a great program for the meeting. Phil Roy, Mission Leader, First Baptist Church,



**SBA
WMU/Ladies
Ministry News**

*Save
the
Date*

WMU/LADIES MEETING
Monday, November 4th
7:00 pm
Mt Zion Baptist Church, Vonore

Sweetwater will be sharing about *Operation Inasmuch*. We know you will be blessed and look forward to seeing you at the meeting! Love in Christ, Rachel Thompson, Associational WMU/Ladies Ministry Director

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 2024-2025 is *All Things Tennessee*. The suggested date for the Week of Prayer is September 8-15, with Scripture reference from 1 Corinthians 13:7, *...love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*

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. As we join together and enter into this time of prayer for all that God is doing in Tennessee, pray for the unchurched and spiritually lost, the many needs across our state, the numerous Tennessee Baptist Mission Board ministries, and the new thing the Lord might want you or your church to do as we seek to reach Tennessee 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.goldenoffering.org)



The **Summit** is the annual gathering of Tennessee Baptists for *Pastors Conference and Annual Meeting*. It will be held **November 10-12 in Murfreesboro**. Online information and additional registration are available at www.tnbaptist.org

DELANO: Delano Baptist Church is seeking a **Director of Youth and Children's Ministries**. (A job description can be found at www.sweetwaterbaptistassociation.com under the "Churches" tab). For more information or to apply, please contact Kim Hoppe at kim.hoppe@adient.com.





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www.fairviewfamily.org

FAIRVIEW TABERNACLE:

Selah will be in Concert at Fairview Tabernacle on Saturday, September 14th at 6 pm. Tickets are \$30-\$45.



Visit <https://fairviewbaptisttabernacle.churchcenter.com/registrations> or contact the church office for tickets or more information. All proceeds above event cost will go to Isaiah 117 House.



LAKESIDE: Homecoming will be September 8th beginning at 10:30 am. Special Singers will be the **Foothills Quartet**. We will also host **Special Singers, The Lingerfelts**, on Sunday, September 29th at 6:00 pm.

Church News



from 11 am – 2 pm. Special testimonies and sign language from *The House that Mercy Built*. There will be singing, food, gifts, games and more. Location: Big Creek Baptist Church. All ladies are invited to attend.

BIG CREEK: 2024 Women's Conference

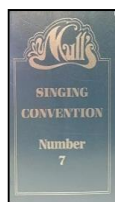
will be held Saturday, September 21st

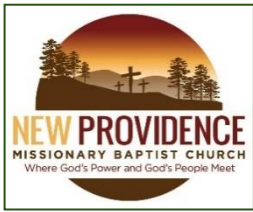
MT. CALVARY: Our **Homecoming** will be on September 22nd.



MADISONVILLE, FIRST: Our **Ladies' Ministry** meetings will be starting back up after the summer break. All Ladies are invited to attend "**The Gathering**," Tuesday, August 6th at the Tribe Building. Doors open at 6 pm and the meeting begins at 6:30. Coffee & snacks provided. This month's guest speaker is author, **Sarah Philpott**. Our monthly **Men's Ministry** meeting (**Equipping Spiritual Warriors**) will be held Monday, August 12 at the Tribe Building. All men are invited to attend. Doors open at 6:30 and the meeting begins at 7:00.

CLIFTON: Clifton Baptist Church is seeking the **Mull's Singing Convention #7 Songbooks**. If any churches have extra or old-condition books to donate, please contact Melinda Spurling at 423-506-4340 or mspurling517marvelousgrace@gmail.com.





NEW PROVIDENCE: *The New Providence Mission Center* located at 451 New Providence Rd in Tellico Plains is in our old church building. It provides clothing, food, hygiene items, health and beauty items, household goods, children's items and supplies along with children's clothing and toys. We are accepting donations of these items and monetary donations. We invite our sister churches to join us in this ministry. If you would like to volunteer or take a tour of the center, please contact 423-519-6899, 423-337-1697 or 423-295-4873.

NOTCHEY CREEK: We are having **Revival Services**, August 4-7. (Sunday at 8:30 am, 10:45 am & 6:00 pm. Mon-Wed at 7:00 pm). Evangelist will be Dr. Bob Pitman. Everyone invited.



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.

UNION MCMINN: **Summer Fest** at Union McMinn will be Saturday, August 3rd from 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm. This is a free community event with hot dogs, burgers, and ice cream; bounce houses, games, music and more. Our **Homecoming** is August 11th. We are also hosting an **Operation Christmas Child Project Leader Workshop** on Saturday, August 24th at 10:00 am.



VONORE BAPTIST: All men are invited to join our **Men's Ministry Bible Study**. It is held at the church on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm (Room 8).



WALNUT GROVE: **Special Singing and Preaching** by the **Moses Family** on August 11 at 6 pm. **Lakeside Quartet** will be singing Sept 8 at 6 pm. We will be collecting **Christmas Backpacks** for the TBMB on Oct 21-23 from 9am-2pm. For a list of items, contact Tressa Manis at msturtle66277@gmail.com.

Ordinations & Anniversaries

On Sunday, July 7, 2024, Director of Missions, Tony Rutherford presented a plaque of recognition to **Concord Baptist Church** in honor of their **200th Anniversary**. (Pictured Tony Rutherford and Pastor Neal Pillion).



On Saturday, July 6, 2024, **Jon Foster** was ordained as the Pastor of **Calvary Baptist Church**.

Youth Committee

2024 VBS Statistics

as reported by the church

Church	Enrolled	Decisions
Bible	63	0
Cedar Fork.....	22	1
Christianburg.....	38	0
Conasauga.....	80	0
Delano	65	1
Howard's Chapel.....	88	2
Lakeside	81	1
Long Ridge.....	50	0
Madisonville, First.....	224	7
New Macedonia.....	102	0
Old Sweetwater	135	20
Shoal Creek	130	4
Union McMinn.....	234	16
Vonore	110	0
Walnut Grove.....	95	0
Watson Chapel.....	200	0

Sweetwater Baptist Association

696 Anderson Street
Madisonville, TN 37354

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ASSOCIATIONAL OFFICERS

MODERATOR DAVID LANE	VICE MODERATOR JAMIE JOHNSON	Associational Council Officers & Committee Chairmen
Committee on Nominations Joel Tilson, Chairman	Budget/Finance Committee Richard Parker, Chairman	Mission Committee Rick Harris, Chairman
Personnel Committee Janet Lynn, Chairperson	Scholarship Committee Christy McCosh, Chairperson	Trustees Darrell Atkins, Chairman
Music Director Phillip Johnson	Youth Council Kevin Manis, Chairman	WMU/Ladies Director Rachel Thompson

NEWS FROM AROUND THE ASSOCIATION



Director of Mission Visits/Miscellaneous:

Citico; Shelton Grove; Watson Chapel; Glenlock; Guatemala; Antioch; Bible; Christianburg; Long Ridge (Calvary Ordination); Concord (Presentation); Bethlehem; Iowa; Beaty's Chapel; Big Creek; Cane Creek; Old Sweetwater (Homecoming/Preach); Citico (Revival);
Vacation Bible School: Madisonville First; Rocky Springs; Bethlehem; Shoal Creek; Mt Calvary; Rural Vale; Long Ridge; Watson Chapel; Shelton Grove; New Macedonia; Mt Zion; Union McMinn; New Bethany; Fairview; Weekend at Calvary; Old Sweetwater; Island Creek; Trinity; Big Creek; Howard's Chapel; Delano; Conasauga; Concord; Cedar Valley; Clifton; Maple Springs; Westside; Tellico First; 411 Chapel; Glenlock

Please pray for our churches without pastors:

Hopewell Springs, Murrays, Tellico (Ballplay)

See You at the Pole
SEPT 25

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 8-15..... *Week of Prayer for State Missions and Golden Offering*
- September 10 Church Clerk Training, 10:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.
- September 10 *Biblical Studies Classes*, SBA Office, 6:30 p.m.
- September 23 *Pastor/Family Picnic*, Notchey Creek Pavilion, 6:30 p.m.
- September 25 *See You at the Pole*
- September 30 Mission Committee Meeting, SBA Office, 6:30 p.m.
- October 21..... *Annual Meeting*, First Sweetwater, Business Session, 6:30 p.m.
- October 21..... *Annual Meeting*, First Sweetwater, Worship Service following Business Session
- November 4..... *WMU/Ladies Meeting*, Mt Zion, 7:00 p.m.
- November 10-12..... *The Summit, Tennessee Baptist Convention*, Murfreesboro
- December 1-8..... *Week of Prayer for International Missions and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering*
- December 9 *Christmas Show, Union-McMinn, 10:30 a.m.*
- December 9 *Pastor/Wife Christmas Banquet, Union-McMinn, 6:30 p.m.*
(All meetings and events subject to change)



Sweetwater Baptist Association in conjunction with Notchey Creek Baptist Church presents



**EAST TENNESSEE
EVANGELISM RALLY**

**For all Pastors, Preachers,
Leadership and Members**

Hosted by **Notchey Creek Baptist Church**
(Watch for further details!)

February 22, 2025

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



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

112 Key Kile Rd, Sweetwater, TN 37874 865.414.3269

Sweetwater Baptist Association
Monday Pastor's Conference
10:00 a.m.
SBA Office Building
Madisonville



Next issue of The Messenger will be November/December.

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.

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