

# *The MESSENGER* of the *Sweetwater Baptist Association*



**SWEET WATER**  
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

**Check Out Our Website**

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

*Visit us on Facebook*

**SBA Office Hours:**

Monday-Thursday

8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

## **TONY RUTHERFORD**

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

## **SHERI STEPHENS**

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

## **BECKY JONES**

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

## **SVITLANA SELF**

Resident Interpreter Volunteer

**Volume 15**

**September/October, 2025**

**Number 77**

SWEETWATER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

## **2025 Annual Meeting** **Monday, October 20**

Hosted by: **New Macedonia Baptist Church**  
Philadelphia, Tennessee

# *He Sends Us Forth*

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost  
Matthew 28:19

*The Great Commission*

Theme: *He Sends Us Forth* Matthew 28:19

- Associational Council Report, Video Presentation, 6:00 p.m.
- Business Session, 6:30 p.m. Worship Service to follow

**Jamie Johnson**  
Moderator

**Gabe Brannon**  
Vice Moderator

**One Day ... Two Sessions**

See *2025 Annual Meeting Program* and  
*Proposed 2025-26 Budget* included in this Newsletter

Sweetwater Baptist Association  
Family of Churches Welcome.....



## **Pastor Sean Patton**

wife Brooke

Henry and Olivia

# **HOPEWELL SPRINGS**

## **Pastor Haden Browder**

wife Kristie

McKinley and Tate

# **CONCORD**



Our prayers are with these men of God and their congregations as they share Christ with their communities.

## Director of Missions

### WHAT'S IMPORTANT?

Just as "beauty is in the eye of the beholder," what is important is relative to each



individual. Growing up in the small town of Sweetwater, the world revolved around the events in the life of a few hundred people. Our world was protected until broken into by an outside force. All small towns have the same reputation, "Once an outsider always an outsider." When someone from another part of the country moved into our community, they were forever known as "That Yankee family." Community was always important to us.

Even if we were a community of isolation, we had constant contact with the outside world. *The Sweetwater Valley News* and the 6:00 evening news of WBIR-TV kept us well informed on the events that were a thousand miles away. It was always a major concern to us that all the news about Sweetwater was positive. Keeping and maintaining a good reputation was always important to us.

The events and activities of our children were always well attended. These were the future leaders of our city, and we wanted to know that the future of our protected community would be in good hands. When special youth and children's programs were presented at church, the buildings filled to capacity. Sporting events brought out record crowds. These were our "perfect" offspring, and they were important to us.

I have witnessed over these past few years that what is important to us, we support and protect. Without a doubt, community, reputation, and children are important to us. How can we best preserve our community? How can we present a good reputation? How can we protect our children and our future? The answer to these questions and others is discovered in God's Word. God's Word has been entrusted into the hands of His Church.

Personally, the health and welfare of the churches where I've pastored and now the health and welfare of the Sweetwater Baptist Association is a major concern of mine. Over the years, adjustment and tweaking of missions, ministry and evangelism have been faced with prayer and dedication. Each decision is based on God's direction and the impact on church, community, and quality of presentation. Understanding that what we do is **kingdom work** and is preparation for either His coming or those who will follow.

Each pastor and lay leader of the seventy-five churches of the Sweetwater Baptist Association should want nothing less for their congregation. Can you imagine a body of believers in one mind and one accord prayerfully seeking God's will over their own desires and wishes? Believers rushing the doors on Sunday morning eager to hear God's Word and a hungering for spiritual nourishment. The excitement of new converts discovering a loving Savior and receiving a forgiven heart. These are the things that are important!

In each copy of *The Messenger*, you will find events, missions, and ministry opportunities for the coming months. *The Messenger* will include local congregation, associational, and TBMB events that are available for your participation. Please take advantage of these opportunities. Remember, time, prayer, and kingdom considerations have been put into each one. Hopefully, the Sweetwater Baptist

Association and the events planned will equal quality. Bringing God the glory through serving Jesus is our purpose. --Tony

## Associational News Events, Information

### UPDATED INFORMATION on BIBLICAL STUDIES CLASS:

#### IS THERE LIFE AFTER DEATH?

*Lessons from the Resurrection of Christ  
and the Teachings of Paul*

**Begins September 9th**

**Tuesdays @ 6:30 PM**

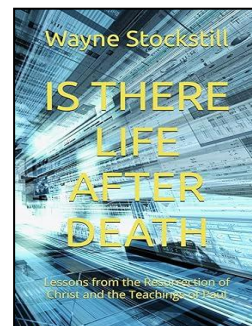
Class Cost: \$20.00

Register at first class or call

423-442-6604 to pre-register

Class Instructor:

**Wayne Stockstill** (Former Pastor; Member of First Baptist Church, Madisonville)



#### PASTOR & FAMILY PICNIC:

Pastors, this is just a reminder!  
Please contact the SBA Office at  
442-6604 or email  
[becky.jones@bellsouth.net](mailto: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 22nd 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 10th for the barbeque picnic/meal.** We look forward to seeing you at this gathering planned especially for our pastors and their families.

### 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

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



**SBA  
WMU/Ladies  
Ministry News**

Ladies, please mark your calendar for **Monday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>** and plan to attend the **Associational WMU/Ladies Ministry Meeting**.

It will be held at Madisonville, First Baptist Church. Russ and Alysha Mitchell, Managers of the Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes in Knoxville will share about the TBAH ministry. We know you will be blessed by their coming and we look forward to seeing you on **November 3<sup>rd</sup>**!

Save  
the  
Date



**WMU/LADIES MEETING**  
**Monday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> 7:00 pm**  
First Baptist Church, Madisonville



The TBAH is a ministry of the Tennessee Baptist Mission Board that provides care for adults with special needs. From everyday routines, to special outings, they provide residents a loving, supportive and safe home. We are asking our ladies to please bring to the WMU Meeting some of the most-used items to share with the TBAH Knoxville Adult Home. (A suggested list of needed items can be found on the Sweetwater Baptist Association website.)

Just a reminder! If your church receives (or would like to receive) materials for the various mission offerings (*Lottie Moon, Annie Armstrong, Golden*), you can request these by visiting the new website [TNWMUOrder.org](http://TNWMUOrder.org). **IMPORTANT: If your church was already receiving these materials, you will need to sign-up again on the new website.** Love in Christ, Rachel Thompson, Associational WMU/Ladies Ministry Director

**GOLDEN OFFERING:** The *Golden Offering* theme for 2025-2026 is *Together: We Pray. We Give. We Go.* The suggested dates for the week of prayer for the Golden Offering are September 7-14 with Scripture reference from Philippians 1:27 ...*stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the Gospel.*



Why do Tennessee Baptists participate in the *Golden Offering* for Tennessee Missions? Because we love Tennessee! Any way you slice it, Tennessee is a mission field. God calls us to unite in three powerful ways that define our mission together.

- **WE PRAY:** and our unity begins on our knees, seeking God's heart for Tennessee and beyond.
- **WE GIVE:** and our generosity reflects Christ's sacrificial love, pooling our resources for Kingdom impact.
- **WE GO:** and our commitment moves us from comfort zones into harvest fields God has prepared.

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 and the many needs across our state, as well as 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.tnbaptist.org](http://www.tnbaptist.org); additional information available [www.GoldenOffering.org](http://www.GoldenOffering.org))



**Individual, Couples  
& Family Services**

- Anxiety & Fear
- Anger
- Divorce & Grief Recovery
- Premarital & Marriage
- Coping Skills

**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 1, 2024-August 25, 2025**

| Church .....              | Total ..... | Church .....             | Total .....         |
|---------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 411 Chapel .....          | 1,500.00    | New Bethany .....        | 4,012.27            |
| Antioch .....             | 275.00      | New Macedonia .....      | 2,200.00            |
| Beaty's Chapel .....      | 100.00      | New Providence .....     | 9,432.68            |
| Bethlehem .....           | 6,413.00    | New Zion .....           | 400.00              |
| Bible .....               | 400.00      | North Sweetwater .....   | 1,085.87            |
| Big Creek .....           | 0.00        | Notchey Creek .....      | 9,424.04            |
| Calvary .....             | 1,248.66    | Oak Grove .....          | 3,542.15            |
| Cane Creek .....          | 1,400.00    | Oakland .....            | 800.00              |
| Cedar Fork .....          | 5,339.49    | Old Pond Hill .....      | 300.00              |
| Cedar Valley .....        | 10,953.26   | Old Sweetwater .....     | 1,000.00            |
| Christianburg .....       | 3,059.48    | Paint Rock .....         | 1,100.00            |
| Citico .....              | 3,113.93    | Piney Grove .....        | 0.00                |
| Clifton .....             | 275.00      | Poplar Bluff .....       | 1,100.00            |
| Community .....           | 2,023.33    | Reed Springs .....       | 1,884.00            |
| Compromise .....          | 550.00      | Rocky Springs .....      | 5,000.00            |
| Conasauga .....           | 3,300.00    | Rural Vale .....         | 5,832.34            |
| Concord .....             | 2,748.27    | Shady Grove .....        | 1,000.00            |
| Delano .....              | 3,482.11    | Shelton Grove .....      | 2,151.35            |
| Druid Hills .....         | 1,000.00    | Shoal Creek .....        | 1,020.54            |
| Ebenezer .....            | 521.50      | South Madisonville ..... | 1,100.00            |
| Fairview (Tellico) .....  | 0.00        | Sweetwater First .....   | 3,850.00            |
| Fairview Tabernacle ..... | 14,250.00   | Tellico (Ballplay) ..... | 1,500.00            |
| Fellowship .....          | 1,332.30    | Tellico First .....      | 5,082.00            |
| Glenlock .....            | 3,674.00    | Tevis Springs .....      | 400.00              |
| Gregory's Chapel .....    | 1,100.00    | Towee Falls .....        | 1,650.00            |
| Hopewell Springs .....    | 500.00      | Trinity .....            | 1,000.00            |
| Howard's Chapel .....     | 1,200.00    | Union Grove .....        | 1,320.00            |
| Island Creek .....        | 3,300.00    | Union Hall .....         | 656.00              |
| Lakeside .....            | 2,400.00    | Union McMinn .....       | 4,400.00            |
| Long Ridge .....          | 1,000.00    | Unity .....              | 300.00              |
| Lower Chilhowee .....     | 1,818.75    | Upper Shady Grove .....  | 450.00              |
| Macedonia .....           | 200.00      | Vonore .....             | 18,400.85           |
| Madisonville, First ..... | 4,166.70    | Walnut Grove .....       | 1,500.00            |
| Maple Springs .....       | 0.00        | Watson Chapel .....      | 1,166.69            |
| Miller's Chapel .....     | 1,100.00    | Westside .....           | 0.00                |
| Mt. Calvary .....         | 1,174.05    | Williamsburg .....       | 443.81              |
| Mt. Isabella .....        | 0.00        | TBMB .....               | 6,886.00            |
| Mt. Zion .....            | 8,187.68    | Interest/Misc .....      | 301.59              |
| Murray's .....            | 2,194.00    | <b>Total .....</b>       | <b>\$196,992.69</b> |



**PASTORS AND WIVES CHRISTMAS BANQUET:** Pastors, please mark your calendars now and plan to attend the **Annual Pastors and Wives Christmas Banquet on Monday evening, December 8<sup>th</sup>**. The catered meal/banquet will be held at Union McMinn Baptist Church in Niota at 6:30 p.m.

Our invitation is also 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 Shirah Brothers** will be our special musical guests for the evening. We know you will enjoy this group and will be blessed by their coming to share 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](mailto:becky.jones@bellsouth.net) or [sweetwaterassoci@bellsouth.net](mailto:sweetwaterassoci@bellsouth.net)

**THE SHIRAH BROTHERS** *in person*  
**Monday, December 8, 10:30 am.**  
**Senior Adult Christmas Show**  
 Hosted by...  
**Union McMinn Baptist Church, Niota**  
**Everyone Invited**



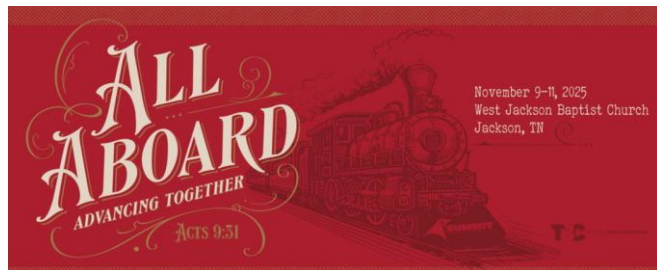
**SENIOR ADULT CHRISTMAS SHOW:** We want to personally invite you to make plans now to see **The Shirah Brothers!** The Sweetwater Baptist Association will feature this southern gospel singing group at our annual *Senior Adult Christmas Show*. This event will be held at **Union McMinn Baptist Church in Niota on Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m.**



**The Shirah Brothers** will sing well-known gospel classics, Christmas favorites, along with their own songs. Be sure to check out their music online at <https://www.shirahbrothers.com/>

You may want to consider making this a special day for the Senior Adults in your church. Enjoy the free *Christmas Show* as a church group, then schedule lunch at a local restaurant, or even spend the afternoon Christmas shopping!


Please announce in your church! This is a free event; and all ages are invited. Everyone is invited to what we know will be an outstanding *Christmas Show* on **Monday morning, December 8<sup>th</sup>**.



**The Summit** is the annual gathering of Tennessee Baptists for *Pastors Conference* and *Annual Meeting*. It will be held **November 9-11 in Jackson, Tennessee**. Online information and additional registration are available at [www.tnbaptist.org](http://www.tnbaptist.org)



TENNESSEE BAPTIST MISSION BOARD  
**Bivocational Ministers  
 & Wives Retreat, 2026**  
**January 29-31**  
 Phone: 615.373.2255  
[www.tnbaptist.org](http://www.tnbaptist.org)



**Gideons Pastors' Banquet**  
**Thursday, October 9, 2025**  
**6:30 pm**  
**Hiwassee/Bruderhof Campus**  
*For Information or to Sign-Up,*  
**Contact Wallace Graham at 423-261-5311**

**CHURCH CLERKS:** Just a reminder! *Annual Church Profile* (ACP) reports and *Messenger* cards for 2025 have been distributed for completion. All information is due back at the SBA Office by **October 2<sup>nd</sup>**.



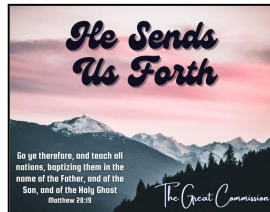
Please remember that in accordance with the *Constitution and By-Laws of the Sweetwater Baptist Association*, each church (in good standing) is allowed 7 Messengers. **These are the only people allowed to participate in voting during the business session of the Annual Meeting.** Messenger names must be submitted on the Messenger Card and returned to the Sweetwater Baptist Association, by October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

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.

**ATTENTION CHURCH CLERKS:**  
**Completed Annual Church Profiles (ACP's) and  
 Messenger Cards are due October 2<sup>nd</sup>**



**ANNUAL MEETING, 2025:** We invite all elected Messengers to attend the upcoming 195<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of the Sweetwater Baptist Association. (Visitors are welcome to attend but cannot participate in business.)



The meeting will be held on Monday evening, October 20<sup>th</sup> at New Macedonia Baptist Church. The Business Session will begin at 6:30 p.m. and the Worship Session will follow. Special Music will be presented by Phillip Johnson and Darrin Nichols, and our Moderator, Jamie Johnson, will preach the sermon during the Worship Session. We thank him and our Vice-Moderator, Gabe Brannon, for their outstanding leadership this past year.

We look forward to seeing you on Monday evening, October 20<sup>th</sup> at this important meeting of the Association.

**Program for the  
2025 Annual Meeting of the  
Sweetwater Baptist Association**  
(Program is subject to change.)

Theme: *He Sends Us Forth* - Matthew 28:19

|  |                                       |                                   |
|--|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Director of Missions</b><br>Tony Rutherford | <b>Vice Moderator</b><br>Gabe Brannon | <b>Moderator</b><br>Jamie Johnson |
|--|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|

*Celebrating 195 Years... 1830-2025*

**Monday Evening, October 20, 2025  
NEW MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH  
Philadelphia, Tennessee  
Business Session**

|      |  |  |
|------|--|--|
| 6:00 | <i>Associational Council Report</i> .....            | <i>Video Presentation</i>  |
| 6:30 | <i>Greetings and Prayer</i> .....                    | <i>Tony Rutherford</i><br>Director of Missions; Member, Fairview Baptist Tabernacle Church       |
|      | <i>Video Message</i> .....                           | <i>Dr. Randy Davis</i><br>Executive Director-Treasurer, Tennessee Baptist Mission Board          |
|      | <i>TBMB Representative</i> .....                     | <i>Steve Pearson</i><br>Harvest Field 4 Team Leader, Tennessee Baptist Mission Board             |
|      | <i>Memorial Report</i> .....                         | <i>Video Presentation</i>  |
|      | <i>Welcome and Prayer</i> .....                      | <i>Mitch Isbill</i><br>Pastor, New Macedonia Baptist Church                                      |
|      | <i>Presentation of Gavel</i> .....                   | <i>Director of Missions</i>  |
|      | <i>Call to Order</i> .....                           | <i>Jamie Johnson</i><br>Moderator; Member, Delano Baptist Church                                 |
|      | <i>Business Session</i> .....                        | <i>Moderator</i>   |
|      | <i>Constitution of Body</i> .....                    | <i>Becky Jones</i><br>Clerk; Member, First Baptist Church, Madisonville                          |
|      | <i>Appointment of Committee on Nominations</i> ..... | <i>Moderator</i>   |
|      | <i>Election of Officers</i> .....                    | <i>Gabe Brannon</i><br>Vice-Moderator; Pastor, Union McMinn Baptist Church                       |
|      | <i>Committee on Nominations</i> .....                | <i>Bill Wilson</i><br>Chairman Committee on Nominations; Pastor, North Sweetwater Baptist Church |
|      | <i>Treasurer's Report</i> .....                      | <i>Sheri Stephens</i><br>Treasurer; Member, Notchey Creek Baptist Church                         |
|      | <i>Presentation of Budget</i> .....                  | <i>Trey Ferguson</i><br>Member of Budget Committee; Member, New Providence Baptist Church        |
|      | <i>Director of Missions Report</i> .....             | <i>Tony Rutherford</i>   |
|      | <i>Presentation of 2026 Calendar</i> .....           | <i>Director of Missions</i>  |

*Recommendation(s) & Presentation(s)*.....*Director of Missions*  
*Old Business*.....*Vice-Moderator*  
*New Business*.....*Vice-Moderator*  
*Adjourn*.....*Vice-Moderator*

**Monday Evening, October 20, 2025  
NEW MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH  
Philadelphia, Tennessee  
Worship Session**

*Congregational Hymn*.....*New Macedonia Baptist Church*  
*Welcome and Prayer*.....*Gabe Brannon*  
Vice-Moderator; Pastor, Union McMinn Baptist Church  
*Special Music*.....*Phillip Johnson and Darrin Nichols*  
Members; Fairview Baptist Tabernacle Church  
*Moderator's Message*.....*Jamie Johnson*  
Moderator; Member, Delano Baptist Church  
*Benediction*.....*Director of Missions*

**BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE  
REPORT:**

The Budget/Finance Committee has reviewed all line items, and fine-tuned, modified and adjusted the amounts in each line item as needed to do ministry. Ministry is not being cut, we are just being wise stewards of ministry funds. The Sweetwater Baptist Association office staff does most of the promotion, planning, printing, etc. for the ministry activities in-house, which reduces overall costs. With the current amounts of designated items, consideration for some items of the budget could be reduced until designated amounts are reduced or depleted. The *Budget and Finance Committee* recommends the following budget changes for the *Proposed 2025-2026 Budget* of the Sweetwater Baptist Association as follows:



- (a) Increase *Administrative Assistant* by \$922.00 (To be distributed by employee: \$322.00 Salary, \$600.00 Retirement)
  - (b) Increase *Ministry Assistant* by \$832.00 (To be distributed by employee: \$232.00 Salary, \$600.00 Retirement)
  - (c) Increase *Staff Social Security (Employer)* by \$146.00 or a total of \$5658.00
  - (d) Decrease *Church Growth & Development* by \$150.00 or a total of \$850.00 (This allows for one effective, high-quality conference with a church emphasis, as well as the annual Church Clerk Conference each year)
  - (e) Decrease *Vacation Bible School* by \$450.00 to \$1200.00 (This enables the promotion of VBS Showcase with purchase 5 kits for VBS Showcase, which are given away to the churches at the end of the Showcase; in addition, VBS designated funds are available.)
  - (f) Decrease *Men's Ministry/Brotherhood* by \$250.00 to \$500.00 (Numerous accounts are available to utilize for this area of ministry.)
  - (g) Decrease *Disaster Relief* by \$100.00 to \$500.00. (Numerous designated disaster relief accounts are available to assist in this area of ministry.)
  - (h) Decrease *Biblical Studies* by \$500.00 to \$500.00 (This allows for funds for instructor in the fall, in addition to available designated funds, plus per person that is collected each session for supplies from students.)
  - (i) Decrease *Local Evangelism/Outreach* by \$250.00 or a total of \$1400.00 (Numerous designated evangelism/outreach funds are available to assist in this area of ministry.)
  - (j) Decrease *Student Scholarship* by \$200.00 to \$2000.00 for the 4 scholarships at \$500.00 each (Books (if given to the recipient) can be purchased from the student/youth ministry line item, if needed.)
- 0 % overall increase      Total Proposed Budget \$226,958.00

| SWEETWATER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION<br>Proposed Budget for<br>2025-2026   | 2024-25<br>Budget   | Proposed<br>2025-26<br>Budget | Increase<br>Decrease |
|--|---------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>I. ASSOCIATIONAL ADMINISTRATION</b>   |                     |                               |                      |
| DOM Package  |                     |                               |                      |
| DOM Salary/Housing   | 63,590.00           | 63,590.00                     |                      |
| DOM Benefits   | 11,805.00           | 11,805.00                     |                      |
| DOM Business Expenses  | 11,577.00           | 11,577.00                     |                      |
| Administrative Assistant   | 29,317.00           | 29,639.00                     | +322.00              |
| Adm. Asst Retirement (Salary Reduction)  | 5,400.00            | 6,000.00                      | +600.00              |
| Adm. Asst Travel   | 309.00              | 309.00                        |                      |
| Ministry Assistant/Receptionist  | 27,029.00           | 27,261.00                     | +232.00              |
| Ministry Asst/Receptionist Retirement<br>(Salary Reduction)  | 3,000.00            | 3,600.00                      | +600.00              |
| Ministry Asst/Receptionist Travel  | 309.00              | 309.00                        |                      |
| Staff Social Security  | 5,512.00            | 5,658.00                      | +146.00              |
| 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                      |                      |
| <b>II. ASSOCIATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS</b>   |                     |                               |                      |
| Church Growth & Development  | 1,000.00            | 850.00                        | -150.00              |
| Vacation Bible School  | 1,650.00            | 1,200.00                      | -450.00              |
| Mens Ministry/Brotherhood  | 750.00              | 500.00                        | -250.00              |
| Disaster Relief  | 600.00              | 500.00                        | -100.00              |
| Womens/Ladies/WMU  | 1,500.00            | 1,500.00                      |                      |
| Children   | 500.00              | 500.00                        |                      |
| Biblical Studies   | 1,000.00            | 500.00                        | -500.00              |
| Evangelism   | 5,000.00            | 5,000.00                      |                      |
| Local Evangelism/Outreach  | 1,650.00            | 1,400.00                      | -250.00              |
| Music  | 200.00              | 200.00                        |                      |
| Mission Development  | 1,500.00            | 1,500.00                      |                      |
| Student Scholarship (High School Seniors)  | 2,200.00            | 2,000.00                      | -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                      |                      |
| <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  | 3,750.00            | 3,750.00                      |                      |
| Insurance (Office)   | 7,000.00            | 7,000.00                      |                      |
| <b>V. MISCELLANEOUS</b>  |                     |                               |                      |
| 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   | +1,500.00           | +1,500.00                     |                      |
| The Tennessee Baptist Convention<br>provides TBC Supplement for the<br>Sweetwater Baptist Association per terms<br>of Covenant Agreement.<br>Total Monthly \$625.00/Annually \$7500.00 |                     |                               |                      |
| <b>TOTALS ( 0% overall increase)</b>   | <b>\$226,958.00</b> | <b>\$226,958.00</b>           | <b>0.00</b>          |

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

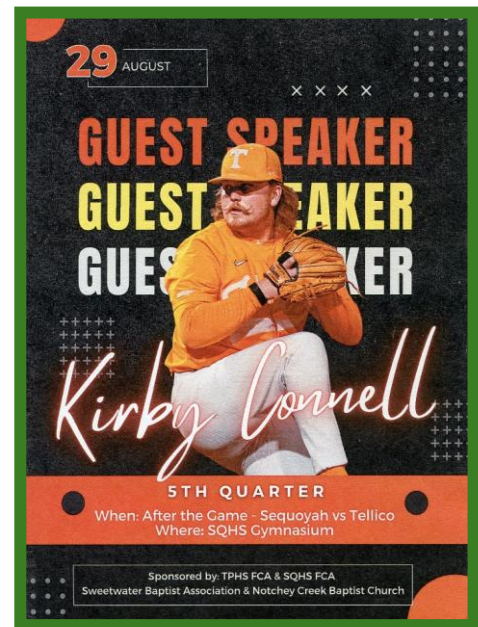
## Youth News

All students are invited to the **5<sup>th</sup> Quarter** after the Sequoyah/Tellico Plains Football Game

**Friday, August 29<sup>th</sup>.**

Special Guest Speaker will be former  
**Vols Baseball Pitcher, Kirby Connell.**

The 5<sup>th</sup> Quarter will be held in the Sequoyah Gymnasium.



## Ordinations, Anniversaries



Union McMinn Baptist Church celebrated their **200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** on Sunday, August 10<sup>th</sup>. Director of Missions, Tony Rutherford presented the church with a plaque from the **Tennessee Baptist Mission Board** in recognition of this historic milestone. (Pictured: Tony Rutherford and Pastor Gabe Brannon).

On Sunday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, Shoal Creek Baptist Church ordained Braden Strickland and Trey Strickland as Deacons. This was especially meaningful for the church and Pastor Steve Strickland, since Trey and Braden are his sons. (Pictured: Trey, Steve & Braden Strickland).





## Church News, Events

**BEATY'S CHAPEL:** *Special Singing* on Saturday, August 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. **The Martin Family** from **Maple Springs Baptist Church** will be singing. Everyone is invited!



**LONG RIDGE:** *Special Singing Schedule*  
Everyone invited.

September 28, 6pm ..... **Foothills Quartet**  
October 26, 6pm ..... **The Hymnsmen**  
November 9, 6pm ..... **Colby Goforth**  
November 23, 6pm ..... **Stan Shuman**



**BIBLE BAPTIST:** We are having **Revival** services, August 24-27 with Rev. Jonathan Smith preaching. Sunday night begins at 6pm and Weeknights at 7pm. Prayer room is 15 minutes prior to service. Everyone is invited.



**TEVIS SPRINGS:** We are having **Revival** services, September 7-12. Evangelists will be Tommy Self and John Thomas McCallie. Sunday night begins at 6pm, and Weeknights begin at 7 pm. Prayer room is 30 minutes prior to service. Everyone is invited

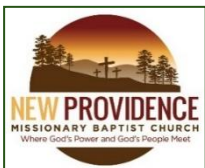


**OAK GROVE:** We are having **Revival** services, September 14-19 at 7pm. Evangelists will be Chad Schaffer, Chris Holloway, and John Thomas McCallie. Prayer Room begins at 6:45 and there will be Special Singing each night. Everyone is invited.



**TELLICO (BALLPLAY):** We are having **Revival** services, beginning Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup>. Sunday's service begins at 6:30 pm, with Weeknight services at 7:00 pm. The guest preachers will be Rev. Clint Greene and Rev. Dewey Brown. Everyone is invited.

**MADISONVILLE, FIRST:** *Spanish Speaking Bible Study:* Thursday nights at 6:30 pm.



**NEW PROVIDENCE:** *The New Providence Mission Center* provides clothing, food, hygiene items, health and beauty items, household goods, children's items and supplies along with children's clothing and toys. We accept 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.

**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.

**NOTCHEY CREEK:** Upcoming events:

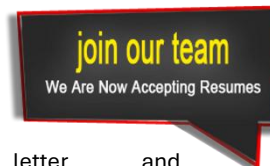
Sept 10, 7pm ..... **Phillips, Craig & Dean Concert**  
Sept 25, 10 am ..... **Second Harvest Food Distribution**



Free Tickets online at [www.notcheycreekbaptist.org](http://www.notcheycreekbaptist.org)

**RURAL VALE:** *Special Singing/Free Concert:*

**Resurrection Quartet, Saturday, September 27 @ 6pm**



letter, and references to: [YouthPastorApply@yahoo.com](mailto:YouthPastorApply@yahoo.com). For more information, contact the church at 423-337-3533.



865-318-5653.

**VONORE BAPTIST:** We are beginning a new 5-week **Men's Bible Study** on Tuesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 pm (Room 8). The study will be based on the movie **"The Forge"**. If you have questions or to register, contact Bill Post at

**UNION GROVE:** Upcoming church events:

Sept 13, 8am ..... **Salvation Color Walk, Eureka Trail/Athens**  
Sept 27, 6pm ..... **Fish Fry**  
Nov 1, 5pm-8pm ..... **Fall Festival**



**UNION MCMINN:** Upcoming church events:

Sept 21 ..... **Old Timer's Day (Lunch after service)**  
Oct 5 ..... **Pastor Appreciation Day (Lunch after service)**  
Oct 26, 6pm ..... **Fall Festival**  
Nov 22, 11am-1pm ..... **"Come to the Table" Meal served**  
Nov 22, 6 pm ..... **Thanksgiving Dinner**



**Sweetwater Baptist Association**696 Anderson Street  
Madisonville, TN 37354PRST STD  
US Postage  
PAID  
Permit 11 NP  
Madisonville, TN  
37354**ASSOCIATIONAL OFFICERS****MODERATOR**

Jamie Johnson

**VICE MODERATOR**

Gabe Brannon

**Associational Council**

Officers &amp; Committee Chairmen

**Committee on Nominations**

Bill Wilson, Chairman

**Budget/Finance Committee**

Gid Redmond, Chairman

**Evangelism Director**

Shane Johnston

**Mission Committee**

Gerald Lynn, Chairman

**Personnel Committee**

Donna McKee, Chairperson

**Trustees**

Dan Sliger, Chairman

**Music Director**

Phillip Johnson

**Youth Council**

Nick Farrell, Chairman

**WMU/Ladies Director**

Rachel Thompson

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

Concord.....Haden Browder

Hopewell Springs.....Sean Patton

**Director of Mission Visits/Miscellaneous:**Sweetwater First; Unity; Tellico (Ballplay); 411 Chapel; Walnut Grove; Tevis Springs; Piney Grove; Tellico First; Nominating Committee; Budget/Finance Committee; Westside; Cedar Fork; Williamsburg; North Sweetwater; Watson Chapel; Old Fashioned Prayer Meeting; Shady Grove; Union McMinn (200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Presentation); Upper Shady Grove; Mt Calvary; Notchey Creek; Concord; Shoal Creek (Deacon Ordination); Notchey Creek (Revival); Old Pond Hill; Conasauga; Bible Baptist; Oakland; Union Hall**Please pray for our churches without pastors:**

Long Ridge, Macedonia, Old Pond Hill, Union Grove


**SWEETWATER**  
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

If your church has used or unused **Sunday School Literature** that you'd like to donate, please contact **Ginger Lloyd** to make arrangements for donating.  
Call or Text: 423-572-2700

**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

Sept 7-14....*Week of Prayer for State Missions and Golden Offering*Sept 9.....*Biblical Studies Classes*, SBA Office, 6:30 p.m.Sept 15.....*Greece Orientation Meeting*, Christianburg, 7:00 p.m.Sept 22.....*Pastor/Family Picnic*, Notchey Creek Pavilion, 6:30 p.m.

Sept 24.....See You at the Pole

Sept 29.....*Mission Committee Meeting*, SBA Office, 6:30 p.m.

Oct 2.....ACP Reports &amp; Messenger Cards Due

Oct 20.....*Annual Meeting*, New Macedonia, 6:30 p.m. Business Meeting,  
Worship Service to followNov 3.....*WMU/Ladies Meeting*, Madisonville FBC, 7:00 p.m.

Nov 3-12.....Greece Tour

Nov 9-12.....TBMB Annual Meeting, West Jackson

(Meetings and events subject to change)


**SWEETWATER**  
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
**WMU/Ladies Group**Please check the Activities Director at 442-3990 regarding entrance at facility.  
Madisonville Health & Rehab — Nursing Home Birthday Cake Schedule

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

Next issue of *The Messenger* will be November/December.**SBA Office Hours** Monday-Thursday 8:30 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.

Sweetwater Baptist Association

in conjunction with

Notchey Creek Baptist Church presents

**EAST TENNESSEE****MINISTRY SUMMIT****Pastor, Preacher, Leadership  
Conference & Evangelism Rally**Guest Preachers: **Dr. Jim Henry****Rev. Allan Taylor, Dr. Roc Collins****February 28, 2026**Hosted by **Notchey Creek Baptist Church**

(Watch for further details!)

The Upper Room Christian Counseling

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

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.