



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 **November/December, 2024** **Number 71**

Sweetwater Baptist Association
2024 ANNUAL MEETING
Monday, October 21, 6:30 p.m.
 Hosted by: Sweetwater, First Baptist Church

Sweetwater Baptist Association presents
THE LORE FAMILY
Senior Adult Christmas Show
 10:30 a.m. Union McMinn Baptist Church
Monday, December 9th
Everyone Invited!

Pastor & Wife Christmas Banquet
December 9th
 (Reservations Required for Banquet)
 6:30 p.m. Union McMinn Baptist Church

Sweetwater Baptist Association, Family of Churches Welcome
Pastor Chris Crowder
wife Lacy
and children, Gage and Lexi

TELLICO (BALLPLAY)
Baptist Church

We are praying for this pastor and congregation as they share the love of Christ in their community.

Sweetwater Baptist Association in conjunction with Notchey Creek Baptist Church presents....

EAST TENNESSEE EVANGELISM RALLY

February 22, 2025
For all Pastors, Preachers, Church Leadership, and Church Members

Special Guests/Preachers/Speakers:

- Dr. Roc Collins**
Strategic Objectives Director, Tennessee Baptist Mission Board
- Dr. Randy Davis**
Executive Director-Treasurer, Tennessee Baptist Mission Board
- Dr. Phil Hoskins**
Evangelist, Pastor, Author

Special Music By:

- Notchey Creek Praise Band**

Hosted by **Notchey Creek Baptist Church**
 5529 New Hwy 68, Madisonville TN

(Watch for further details!)

Director of Missions

Autumn brings back fond memories. An evening of hayrides, wiener roasts, and bonfires warm the heart of the "aging." People are bundled



up in layers of clothing with coats, gloves, and even earmuffs. The air is brisk as breath turns into smoke. Colors are lively. Trees are decorated with yellow, green, and red. Corn stalks are browned with age. Pumpkins are orange, soon to become pies and scary faces. The smell of fireplace smoke fills the evening sky, as nature announces that autumn has arrived.

Growing up in a small community, autumn takes on a special meaning. The "Dog Days of August" give way to the delightful evenings of fall. Children are planning for the approaching event of makeup and disguises. The youth are clamoring about the football team, homecoming dance, and hayrides into the night. The adults are admiring the beauty of God's handiwork, as the trees slowly give up their life. Nature announces that autumn has arrived.

The squirrels are gathering their last provisions for the winter, and the birds are flying south. Cardinals are seen outside the windows where robins used to sing. The grass that once was bright and green is turning brown. There is a sharp cut in the wind that blows. Soon our land will be covered with snow. Nature announces that autumn has arrived.

In this abundance of excitement, God is proclaiming a never-ending truth. Life is a changing process! It is seen in the changing of the seasons. Spring gives way to summer, summer turns to autumn, and winter covers fall. We may have the privilege to experience many rotations of the seasons. In each we receive the same message. Life appears to be swallowed up in death. Yet, for those who believe in Christ, spring is just around the corner.

Autumn is the time of year for endings and beginnings. An old church year comes to an end, while a new year begins. This would be an excellent time to allow the unsuccessful attempts to rediscover the church to come to an end and begin by rededicating ourselves to attend Sunday School and Worship with our families this Sunday. The fingerprints of God's touch in our lives will be as clear as the changing of colors in the trees. Our recommitment to God's Word will lead to a beautiful life.

2023-2024 has been a successful year for the Sweetwater Baptist Association. Our churches have moved beyond COVID and reached out to their communities through revivals, VBS, fellowship and other evangelical events. Numbers are rebounding and contributions are rising. An exciting holiday period is in the works.

The SBA is prayerfully planning for 2024-2025 as mission trips, education, training, and worship opportunities for next year are being put into place. You and your congregation are encouraged to participate in all the activities. These events bring us together as an Association as we worship and serve our Lord as one. The unique style of our worship presents a beautiful mosaic to our Heavenly Father.

Knowing that Autumn has arrived in my life, I am blessed to have you to journey with me. I often hear pastors comment on the difficulty of pastoring 75 churches when they have only one. Let me assure you that you have the greatest calling in the world. The love your people share is as refreshing as the newness of a day and as rich as eternity. Remember "autumn comes early!" – Tony

ANNUAL MEETING, 2024: We invite all elected Messengers to attend the upcoming 194th 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 21st at Sweetwater, First Baptist Church. The Business Session will begin at 6:30 p.m. and the Worship Session will follow. Special Music will be presented by Abigail Millsaps, and our Moderator, David Lane, will preach the sermon during the Worship Session. We thank him and our Vice-Moderator, Jamie Johnson, for their outstanding leadership this past year.

The Missions Committee will present the final recommendation to Messengers for the petition from Bible Baptist Church (Tellico Plains) to the Sweetwater Baptist Association for membership. This church has completed a time of watch-care, and the initial petition request for membership was accepted at the April Executive Board Meeting. Since that time, the church has been a participating church, very supportive and encouraging, and had full privileges except voting.

We look forward to seeing you on Monday evening, October 21st, at this important meeting of the Association.

194th ANNUAL MEETING of the Sweetwater Baptist Association Monday, October 21st

Hosted by: **First Baptist Church, Sweetwater**
Business Session: 6:30 p.m. Worship Service to follow
Highlights include... Video Presentation of Memorial Report,
Video Presentation by Executive Director-Treasurer, TBMB, Dr. Randy Davis,
Election of Officers Committee on Nominations Treasurer's Report
Presentation of Budget Mission Committee Recommendation
Director of Missions Report/Presentations/2025 Calendar
Moderator's Message by David Lane

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.

CHRISTMAS BANQUET FOR PASTOR & WIFE:

Reservations are required for the *Annual Pastor and Wife Christmas Banquet* that will be held on **Monday evening, December 9th at 6:30 p.m.** Highlights for the evening will include the reading of the Christmas story, a Christmas sing-along and guest southern Gospel singing group, The Lore Family. The catered meal/banquet will be held at Union McMinn Baptist Church, in Niota.



Pastors, we will soon be mailing information to you regarding the *Christmas Banquet*. Due to limited space and to help plan the meal, we will need to please receive \$5.00 per person to confirm your reservation. You may also call the SBA Office at 442-6604 or email becky.jones@bellsouth.net or sweetwaterassoci@bellsouth.net the number attending the *Pastor/Wife Christmas Banquet*.





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ATTENTION CHURCH CLERKS: The *Minutes of the 194th Annual Meeting of the Sweetwater Baptist Association* will be completed and sent to the printers soon after the *2024 Annual Meeting*. We will notify the churches as soon as the *Minute Books* are back from the printers and available for pickup in the SBA Office.



This year the *2024 Minute Books* are dedicated in memory of former pastors Joseph Ronnie Moore, Caloway Nichols, Ronnie Watson and Charles Gale Miller. Additional copies of *Minute Books* are available at \$7.00 per printed copy on a first-come, first-serve basis by contacting the Sweetwater Baptist Association. Once available, the *Minutes of the 194th Annual Meeting* will also be available on our website at www.sweetwaterbaptistassociation.com.

2025 SBA CALENDARS will be available at the Sweetwater Baptist Association Office by mid-November. We will advise when the calendars are available for pickup. We hope Pastors and Church Leadership will use the calendar in planning church events for 2025, and anything we have scheduled would not hinder any of the events at one of the churches. This allows each of us the opportunity to support the ministries that are offered by both the Association and each of our churches.



NEW LOCATION Union McMinn Baptist Church
314 COUNTY ROAD 316, NIOTA

SENIOR ADULT Christmas Show

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9TH 10:30 AM

Southern Gospel Quartet
The Lore Family

Free Event

SPONSORED BY





SENIOR ADULT CHRISTMAS SHOW: The *Senior Adult Christmas Show* will be held on **Monday morning, December 9th at 10:30 a.m.** This is a **FREE** event, open to all ages! It will be held at Union McMinn Baptist Church in Niota.



You will not want to miss THE LORE FAMILY! This southern gospel vocal group is returning again this year. They will perform 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>

We know you will not want to miss this special presentation! Bring your group! Everyone is invited (all ages) to this free Christmas show. We look forward to seeing you at Union McMinn on December 9th.

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 registration and additional information are available at www.tnbaptist.org



Tennessee Baptist Mission Board presents
2025 Bivocational Pastor's & Wives Retreat
January 23-25
Music Road Hotel & Convention Center
303 Henderson Chapel Rd, Pigeon Forge, TN
Cost: \$275 per couple, for hotel, meals, breaks & materials.



Additional information: www.tnbaptist.org or www.tnbaptist.org/event/bivocational-ministers-wives-retreat

CHURCH GIFTS: We are so thankful to the churches for the gifts you have provided for the Sweetwater Baptist Association. These gifts support the various budget ministries of the Association. *Church Gifts for October, 2023 through September 16, 2024* totaled \$211,462.68. We thank you for your giving for Kingdom work. Please review this information and contact our office if you should have any questions.



SBA Church Gifts as of September 16, 2024

Church	Total	Church	Total
411 Chapel	0.00	New Bethany	5,377.95
Antioch	300.00	New Macedonia	2,400.00
Beaty's Chapel	200.00	New Providence	9,661.84
Bethlehem	12,740.50	New Zion	450.00
Bible	1,300.00	North Sweetwater	1,212.31
Big Creek	0.00	Notchey Creek	8,404.42
Calvary	60.00	Oak Grove	4,606.34
Cane Creek	2,400.00	Oakland	800.00
Cedar Fork	5,387.99	Old Pond Hill	100.00
Cedar Valley	11,510.12	Old Sweetwater	1,000.00
Christianburg	3,519.69	Paint Rock	1,320.00
Citico	753.20	Piney Grove	500.00
Clifton	300.00	Poplar Bluff	900.00
Community	1,762.83	Reed Springs	1,534.00
Compromise	600.00	Rocky Springs	5,800.00
Conasauga	3,300.00	Rural Vale	4,975.19
Concord	1,386.07	Shady Grove	1,000.00
Delano	4,076.79	Shelton Grove	2,581.06
Druid Hills	1,100.00	Shoal Creek	1,189.00
Ebenezer	677.00	South Madisonville	1,200.00
Fairview (Tellico)	0.00	Sweetwater First	4,200.00
Fairview Tabernacle	18,000.00	Tellico (Ballplay)	1,500.00
Fellowship	1,712.98	Tellico First	6,242.00
Glenlock	3,674.00	Tevis Springs	425.00
Gregory's Chapel	1,100.00	Towee Falls	1,800.00
Hopewell Springs	500.00	Trinity	0.00
Howard's Chapel	1,800.00	Union Grove	1,440.00
Island Creek	3,300.00	Union Hall	819.00
Lakeside	900.00	Union McMinn	4,800.00
Long Ridge	1,000.00	Unity	300.00
Lower Chilhowee	50.00	Upper Shady Grove	550.00
Macedonia	600.00	Vonore	20,568.65
Madisonville, First	4,583.37	Walnut Grove	1,502.62
Maple Springs	750.00	Watson Chapel	2,000.04
Miller's Chapel	1,200.00	Westside	100.00
Mt. Calvary	1,212.54	Williamsburg	478.06
Mt. Isabella	0.00	TBMB	7,824.00
Mt. Zion	7,452.84	Miscellaneous	285.28
Murray's	2,406.00	Total	\$211,462.68

shared in this ministry by providing over \$10,000.00 for the children at the Yahve Shamma Orphanage in Haiti.

Love Offerings for YAHVE SHAMMA ORPHANAGE in HAITI with Pastor Gaetan Alcegaire

Citico	1,000.00
Howards Chapel	100.00
Lakeside	1,000.00
Long Ridge	500.00
New Macedonia	2,860.00
Notchey Creek	2,456.00
Oak Grove	780.00
Rural Vale	408.00
Tony and Darnell Rutherford	500.00
Anonymous	500.00

2025 EAST TENNESSEE EVANGELISM RALLY:

Please mark your calendar now and make plans to attend the 2025 **East Tennessee Evangelism Rally!** The meeting will be held on **Saturday, February 22nd** and will be hosted by **Notchey Creek Baptist Church, 5529 New Highway 68** in Madisonville.



Everyone is invited to attend! The final schedule is still being completed. However, tentative plans call for the Saturday morning session to begin at 8:30 a.m. and conclude shortly after noon. All pastors, preachers and church leaders are especially encouraged to attend! This will be a special training/preaching session with all conference leaders sharing at this morning session. **Plans are still being finalized for the event that will feature Dr. Roc Collins, Dr. Phil Hoskins, and Dr. Randy Davis. Special music will be presented by the Notchey Creek Praise Band.**

Then at 7:00 p.m., everyone (especially all pastors, preachers, church leaders and church leadership) is encouraged to gather for the **2025 East Tennessee Evangelism Rally!** **This will be an exciting time of worship, with preaching by Dr. Roc Collins and special music by the Notchey Creek Praise Band.** We look forward to seeing everyone at the evening session. We know you will be blessed and will not want to miss this event!

We encourage you to please make plans now to attend the 2025 *Evangelism Rally*. Mark your calendars for **Saturday, February 22nd** at **Notchey Creek Baptist Church** and watch for more information!

2025 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: The **2025 VBS Showcase** will be held on **Monday evening, March 10th**! This is a great event you will not want to miss!



We will have different VBS themes on display, with sample kits for your review for each option. Pastors and VBS Directors are invited to see the choices that are available for their church. Ordering information for each theme will also be available. Watch for additional information about Vacation Bible School and the *VBS Showcase* that is forthcoming!

LOVE OFFERINGS TO BENEFIT ORPHANAGE IN HAITI:

In 2010, after a devastating earthquake, the Sweetwater Baptist Association of Churches partnered with Pastor Gaetan Alcegaire and the Yahve Shamma Orphanage in Haiti.



Even though that partnership officially ended in 2016, we have continued to correspond with Pastor Gaetan. When we learned of a great need for food and support for the 43 children currently in the care at the orphanage, the churches of the Association were asked to please be part of a ministry to support the children in Haiti by receiving a special love offering for the Haiti orphanage. Thank you to the individuals and churches that have

2024 IOWA MISSION PROJECT:

Members from Notchey Creek, Bethlehem, Union McMinn and Fairview Baptist Tabernacle (making up a team of 13 mission volunteers) participated in an Iowa Mission Project, July 13-18. Vacation Bible



School and revival was held at Downy Baptist Church in West Branch, Iowa. Thank you to these volunteers and the many that shared Christ here at home and across our country this summer.

UKRAINE RELIEF: Please continue to pray for the people of Ukraine. Our Resident Interpreter, Svitlana Self continues to be available to share the many needs of churches, pastors, families and friends that remain in Ukraine. She can also assist with the distribution of monetary gifts to help those that remain in the Ukraine. Svitlana can be contacted at 423-420-9253 or through our office at 423-442-6604. Thank you churches for ministering to those deeply affected and severely impacted by the crisis in Ukraine. Thank you for always being generous supporters of missions. Please continue to pray for the Ukraine nation and the people of Ukraine.



GUATEMALA MISSION PROJECT:

A mission team from Poplar Bluff traveled to Guatemala June 18-25 to share the Gospel. This team of 11 worked with Pastor Antonio at Iglesia Bautista Macedonia, Aldea La Union, Macedonia Baptist Church, La Union. Ministries included: Men and Women Bible Study, Vacation Bible School, Witnessing, Evangelism, Crusade, Revival, Medical Clinic, Sports Evangelism and Food give-away.



Volunteers from Bethlehem, New Bethany, and Birchfield returned to Guatemala, June 25-July 2 to continue on-going mission work with Pastor Hugo Barrios at the Jesús es El Camino Baptist Church El Cañal. In addition, the team worked with Cristo La Unica Esperanza, La Palmita, Baptist Mission and Las Mercedes, Pastor Fred Aguilar, Cordero de

Dios Baptist Church. Ministry for the youth and adults included: Women's Workshop on Prayer, Ladies Bible Study at all locations, Men's Bible Study, Vacation Bible School, Door-to-door Witnessing, Visit Schools, Food give-away, Evangelism, Crusade, Revival, and Medical Clinics in the communities.

Guatemala mission projects are being planned for 2025. Pray how you might be part of this great ministry to the people of Guatemala.

Thank you to the many short-term mission volunteers from churches of our Association that served across our world this past year. Lives were changed forever through these mission efforts.

ASSOCIATIONAL MEDIA CENTER UPDATE:

The Associational Media Center has added 3 new studies to their already growing number of Bible Studies that can be checked-out and used by your Sunday School class, Small Group, Women's Retreat, Youth Retreat, etc. The newest items are:



1. *Balanced & Blessed: Marriage Bible Study* by Dr. Charles Lowery
2. *Grounded: Proverbs and James (Youth Study)* by Clayton & Sharie King
3. *Play the Man (Men's Bible Study)* by Mark Batterson

There are now a total of 58 studies in the Media Center that are available for check-out. Most are DVD studies and include a wide variety of topics, such as Deacon Training, Parenting, Students, Women's, and Men's Bible Studies by some great authors. Please come by and check out a Bible Study for your next group study.

LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING FOR INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS:

The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering has been supporting missionaries around the world since 1888, and your continued giving makes this work possible. Your offerings enable missionaries to be sent to make disciples and multiply churches among unreached people and places for the glory of God.



The suggested date for the *Week of Prayer for International Missions* and *Lottie Moon Christmas Offering* is December 1-8. Plan now to take part in the *Week of Prayer for International Missions* and the *Lottie Moon Christmas Offering*. Please remember that 100% of your gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering go directly to the missionaries on the field. (Information taken from www.imb.org)



WMU/LADIES MINISTRY:
The next Associational **WMU/Ladies Ministry**

Meeting will be **Monday, November 4th at 7 pm.** It will be held at Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Vonore. Our guest speaker for the evening will be Phil Roy. Phil is the Mission Leader at First Baptist Church, Sweetwater and will be sharing about *Operation Inasmuch*. Ladies, we know you will not want to miss this meeting!

Rachel Thompson,
Associational WMU/Ladies Ministry Director

SBA
WMU/Ladies Ministry

WMU/LADIES MEETING
Monday, November 4th
7:00 pm (light meal at 6:00 p.m.)
Mt Zion Baptist Church, Vonore



YEC 2025, East Tennessee

March 28-29

Black Oak Heights Baptist Church, Knoxville, TN

For additional information, contact



Jay Barbier jbarbier@tnbaptist.org or
Lorenzo Baylor lbaylor@tnbaptist.org



YOUTH COMMITTEE: As churches begin to plan their 2025 calendars, please be sure to include the **CONNECT Youth Rally** on the agenda for your students. Last year's rally saw nearly 500 in attendance and was a great night of worship, a word from God, and lives changed! Please come be a part of this year's rally!



The **2024 FCA FIELDS OF FAITH** event will be held at the Sweetwater High School football field on Wednesday, October 9th, from 6:00-8:00 pm. This event is for all area students. There will be food, games, worship and a message.



SEE YOU AT THE POLE: See *You at the Pole*, the global day of student prayer, began in 1990 as a grass roots movement with ten students praying at their school. Decades later, millions pray on their campuses on the fourth Wednesday in September. (**SYATP** will be held on **September 25th** this year.) See *You at the Pole* is simply a prayer rally where students meet at the school flagpole before school to lift up their friends, families, teachers, school, and nation to God. See *You at the Pole* is a student-initiated, student-organized, and student-led event. **SYATP Wristbands are available at the Associational office. Pastors, Youth Leaders and FCA Leaders are welcome to pick some up for their students.**

Ordinations & Anniversaries

On Sunday, September 8, 2024, Director of Missions, Tony Rutherford presented a plaque of recognition to **Howard's Chapel Baptist Church** in honor of their **100th Anniversary**. (Pictured former Pastor, Ralph Patton; current Pastor, Ronnie Best; and Director of Missions, Tony Rutherford).



Church News



BIG CREEK: 2024 Women's Conference will be held Saturday, September 21st 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.

CITICO: We will be having **Old-Timers Day** on October 20th.



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

CONASAUGA: We are having **Revival** services, September 22-27. **Daniel Stewart** and **Mickey Stewart** will be preaching. Everyone is invited to attend.



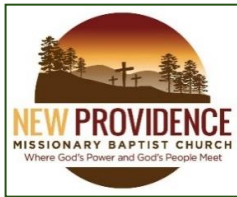
HOWARD'S CHAPEL: We are having **Revival** services, September 22-25. Sunday night service begins at 6pm, Mon-Wed nights begin at 7pm. Our guest Evangelist is **Jamie Coulter, the Skateboard Preacher**. Everyone is invited.

ISLAND CREEK: Mark your calendar.... Our **Live Nativity Drive-Thru** will be December 6-7, from 6pm-8pm. There will be live animals (including camels). Visit our Facebook page for more information!



MADISONVILLE, FIRST: The next ladies meeting of **"The Gathering,"** will be Tuesday, October 1st 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 **Pat Wade**. All ladies are invited to come as we celebrate the 3rd Anniversary of **"The Gathering"**. Our monthly **Men's Ministry (Equipping Spiritual Warriors)** will be held Monday, October 14 at the Tribe Building. All men are invited to attend. Doors open at 6:30 and the meeting begins at 7:00.

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



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 will celebrate the church's 171st year of ministry with a special Homecoming Weekend on October 5-6. The church will host a community Homecoming Meal on Saturday, October 5 @ 6 PM at the church pavilion. **Dr. Charles Fowler**, President of Carson Newman University, will be our guest preacher for both morning services on Sunday, October 6 (8:30 am & 10:45 am); with a special Song Service at 9:45 am. Everyone invited.



OAK GROVE: We are having Revival services, September 29-October 4. Sunday night begins at 6:30, Weeknights begin at 7:00. Prayer room is held 15 minutes prior to service. **Rev. Tommy Self and Rev. Dwayne (Bugsy) Leming** will be preaching and there will be special singing nightly. Everyone is invited to attend.



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.

RURAL VALE: The Resurrection Quartet will be in concert on **Saturday, September 28 at 6:00 pm.** This quartet is made up of former members of *The Inspirations*. Everyone is invited to come out to Rural Vale and worship with us.



SHELTON GROVE: On Sunday, October 27th at 2:00 pm, we will be ordaining Brandon Watson to serve as a Deacon. All ordained men are invited to join the presbytery.



SOUTH MADISONVILLE: We are hosting an Operation Christmas Child Mini Project Leader Workshop on Saturday, October 12th, from 10:00 AM-Noon. Yuri Lopez from Honduras will be here to give her testimony of how a simple shoebox gift led her to salvation in Jesus Christ. Please come hear Yuri's story as well as hear presentations from the Tennessee Valley Area Team - Operation Christmas Child Volunteers. If any questions, please contact Kim Atkins at 423-371-7395.



UNION MCMINN: We will be having Old-Timers Day on Sunday, September 22nd, beginning at 10AM.



UNITY: We are having a Gospel Singing and BBQ Dinner on Saturday,



September 21st at 4:00 pm. All are invited to attend!



VONORE: Our 23rd Annual Car Show will be on Saturday, September 28th, from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm. Contact the church for more information, www.vonorebaptistchurch.org or 423-884-6230. Also, we are still offering 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) and all men are invited to attend.

WALNUT GROVE: 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.



COLTHARP COMMUNITY TENT REVIVAL @ Coltharp Community Center

1110 Old Federal Rd, Madisonville

September 23-27 @ 6:30 pm

Special Singing and Preaching each night

Evangelists: Steve Strickland, Allen Watson, Michael Jacobs, Morgan Peels, Michael McLemore

***Saturday, Sept 28 @ 4PM: Cornhole Tournament @ Coltharp Community Center to benefit Zac Standridge.**

For questions or to pre-register a team, call or text 423-210-0415.

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

Welcome New Pastors

Chris Crowder.....Tellico (Ballplay)

Director of Mission Visits/Miscellaneous:

North Sweetwater (Homecoming); Notchey Creek (Revival) Delano; Ebenezer (Revival); Cedar Valley; Clifton; Gregory's Chapel; Compromise; Druid Hills; Long Ridge; Beaty's Chapel (Presentation); Fairview (Tellico); Fairview Tabernacle; Old Pond Hill; Hopewell Springs; Erwin (Wedding); Howard's Chapel (Homecoming); Island Creek; Tevis Springs (Revival); Mt Calvary; Cedar Fork; Murray's

Please pray for our churches without pastors:

Cedar Fork; Concord; Hopewell Springs; Murray's



Upcoming Events/News

“Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men.”

—Luke 2:14

- Oct 21..... *Annual Meeting*, First Sweetwater, Business Session, 6:30 p.m.
- Oct 21..... *Annual Meeting*, First Sweetwater, Worship Service to follow Business Session
- Nov 4..... *WMU/Ladies Meeting*, Mt Zion, 7:00 p.m.
- Nov 10-12... *The Summit, Tennessee Baptist Convention*, Murfreesboro
- Dec 1-8 *Week of Prayer for International Missions & Lottie Moon Christmas Offering*
- Dec 9 *Christmas Show, Union-McMinn, 10:30 a.m.*
- Dec 9 *Pastor/Wife Christmas Banquet, Union-McMinn, 6:30 p.m.*
- January 1.. *New Year's Day*

(All meetings and events subject to change)



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

WMU/Ladies Group

Please contact Activities Director at 442-3990 regarding
Madisonville Health & Rehab -
Nursing Home Birthday Cake Schedule



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

The Association Office will be closed November 27-28 in observance of the holidays. Thank you for this time to spend with family and friends.

— The Associational Staff

PLEASE NOTE: Photos are taken at all associational meetings and events. These may be used by the Association in newsletters, on our website or social media sites.

SBA PASTORS CONFERENCE:

Monday Mornings at 10:00 a.m.

- No Pastor's Conference in Month of December
- Pastors Conference will resume on January 6th

The next issue of The Messenger will be January/February.