



Check Out Our Website

www.sweetwaterbaptistassociation.com

Visit us on Facebook
SBA Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday

8:30 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.

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SVITLANA SELF

Resident Interpreter Volunteer

Volume 15

Christmas/New Year, 2025

Number 72

Sweetwater Baptist Association Family of Churches welcome....

Pastor Dakota McLemore

wife, Monica and daughter Hannah

MURRAY'S Baptist Church

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





BIBLE Baptist Church Pastor Kevin Miller and wife, fillie

8:30 a.m. Pastors, Preachers, & Leadership Conference 7:00 p.m. Worship Rally

East Tennessee
Ministry Summit

2025

February 22

Hosted by...

Notchey Creek Baptist Church

5529 Nwy Hwy 68 Madisonville, TN 37354 Annual Meeting 2024

Please join us as we pray for the Leadership of the Sweetwater Baptist Association

(left to right)



Gabe Brannon, Vice-Moderator 2024-2025 (Pastor, Union McMinn Baptist Church)
Tony Rutherford, (Director of Missions)
Jamie Johnson, Moderator 2024-2025 (Pastor, Delano Baptist Church)
David Lane, Dut-going Moderator (Pastor, Citico Baptist Church)



Bible Raptist Abuma

Baptist Church
The Sweetwater
Baptist Association

welcomes
Bible Baptist Church
to their family
of churches.



Sharing with you the Glory, wonder and miracle of the Christ Child.

May the blessings of His love Shine throughout this Christmas and the New Year.



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year Sweetwater Baptist Association Tony Rutherford Becky Jones Sheri Stephens







MEETING. 2024: Thank you. Pastor Jason Pounds and First Baptist Church, Sweetwater for the hosting Messengers as they gathered for the 194th Session of Sweetwater **Baptist** the Association. My Light and My Salvation was the theme for the 2024 Annual Meeting. The opening

FROM

ANNUAL

REPORT

welcome and prayer were by Pastor Jason presented Pounds. Donna Blaydes, Preschool/Children Specialist. shared a word of greetings from the Tennessee Baptist Mission Board, and presented a plaque on behalf of churches of the Sweetwater Baptist Association





that participated in the Golden Mission The Memorial Report Offering. included Dedication of the 2024 Minutes of the Association in memory of former pastors: Joseph Ronnie Moore, Wayne Caloway Nichols, Ronnie C. Watson, and Charles Gale Miller. These men were beloved and faithful servants to this Association and

our Lord. They will be sadly missed.

We thank our Moderator David Lane for his kind spirit and outstanding leadership. During the Moderator's Message, he



reminded us that we need to be Lights of Jesus Christ. We were blessed as Abigail Millsaps from Citico Baptist Church shared special music for the service, and Todd Colbert. Music Director from Sweetwater First led the

congregation in singing. In addition, Vice-Moderator Jamie Johnson did an exceptional job in leading the Business Session. approved by Messengers included: Jamie Johnson (Pastor of



Delano) will serve as Moderator and Gabe Brannon (Pastor of Union McMinn) was elected as Vice-Moderator for 2024-2025: petition request for membership from Bible Baptist (Tellico) was accepted, and a proposed budget of \$226,958.00 was approved.

The Director of Missions Report indicated that churches have continued to be on mission as they shared the love of Christ here at home and around our world. Relief efforts thru teams, funds and supplies are continuing to be shared in East Tennessee where areas have been devastated by flood waters.

We want to thank Pastors, Messengers and visitors from churches that were in attendance for the sessions. We also want to thank everyone that served on the program for this year's *Annual Meeting*.

SENIOR ADULT CHRISTMAS SHOW: You will not want to miss THE LORE FAMILY!



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

Bring your group! Everyone is invited (all ages) to this free Christimas show. We look forward to seeing you at Union McMinn on December 9th.

2024 MINUTE BOOKS AND 2025 SBA CALENDARS: The 2024 Minute Books and 2025
Associational Calendars are at the printing company!
We are expecting them back in our office at any time!
We will advise you as soon as they are available to be picked up at our office.





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.

2025 MINISTRY SUMMIT: We want to personally invite you and your entire church to attend the **2025** *East Tennessee Ministry Summit*! This event is for everyone...Pastors, preachers, church leaders, Sunday School teachers!



Tentative schedule (subject to change):

(1) First Session (open to all) Teaching/Preaching

(2) Second Session (open to all) Evening Worship Rally

8:30 a.m. 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be held on **Saturday**, **February 22**nd and will be hosted by **Notchey Creek Baptist Church**, 5529 New Highway 68 in Madisonville. Special music for both sessions will be provided by the Notchey Creek Praise Band.

Everyone is invited to attend the Saturday morning session that will begin at 8:30 a.m. and conclude shortly after noon. Featured preachers at the morning session will be Dr. Roc Collins, Dr. Phil Hoskins, and Dr. Randy Davis. This will be a special training/preaching session that should be especially helpful to pastors, preachers, teachers and church leaders.

Then at 7:00 p.m., (everyone and especially) all pastors, preachers, church leaders and leadership are encouraged to gather for the 2025 East Tennessee Worship Rally! Dr. Roc Collins will be preaching during this session.

Please make plans now to attend the 2025 *Ministry Summit*. Encourage your church leaders and members to attend; you will not want to miss this great event! Mark your calendars for **Saturday**, **February 22**nd at **Notchey Creek Baptist Church and watch for**



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.

CHURCH GIFTS: Total church gifts for October 1st through the November 6th \$32,462.33. Please review the following information, and contact our office if you should have any questions. We thank you for your support of the budget ministries of the Association.



SBA Church Gifts: October 1 - November 6, 2024

SBA Church	Gifts: Oc	toper 1 –	November	6, 2024
Church/Mission	0ct, 2024	Nov, 2024	Dec, 2024	Total
411 Chapel	0.00			0.00
Antioch	25.00			25.00
Beaty's Chapel	100.00			100.00
Bethlehem	583.00			583.00
Bible	0.00			0.00
Big Creek	0.00			0.00
Calvary	102.00			102.00
Cane Creek	200.00			200.00
Cedar Fork	434.42			434.42
Cedar Valley	1,120.86			1,120.86
Christianburg	0.00			0.00
Citico	275.00			275.00
Clifton	25.00	25.00		50.00
Community	112.17	20.00		112.17
Compromise	50.00	50.00		100.00
Conasauga	300.00	00.00		300.00
Concord	1,641.15			1,641.15
Delano	397.88			397.88
Druid Hills	100.00			100.00
Ebenezer	56.00			56.00
Fairview	0.00			0.00
Fairview Tabernacle	1,500.00	1 500 00		3,000.00
Fellowship	139.46	1,500.00		139.46
Glenlock				
	334.00			334.00
Gregory's Chapel	200.00			200.00
Hopewell Springs	0.00			0.00
Howards Chapel	0.00			0.00
Island Creek	600.00	000.00		600.00
Lakeside	0.00	600.00		600.00
Long Ridge	1,000.00			1,000.00
Lower Chilhowee	0.00			0.00
Macedonia	0.00			0.00
Madisonville, First	416.67			416.67
Maple Springs	0.00			0.00
Miller's Chapel	100.00			100.00
Mt. Calvary	83.82			83.82
Mt. Isabella	0.00			0.00
Mt. Zion	747.55			747.55
Murray's	2,194.00			2,194.00
New Bethany	404.35	384.27		788.62
New Macedonia	200.00			200.00
New Providence	903.64			903.64
New Zion	100.00			100.00
North Sweetwater	0.00	77.05		77.05
Notchey Creek	938.45			938.45
Oak Grove	202.73			202.73
Oakland	200.00			200.00
Old Pond Hill	100.00			100.00
Old Sweetwater	0.00			0.00
Paint Rock	110.00	110.00		220.00
Piney Grove	0.00			0.00
Poplar Bluff	100.00	100.00		200.00
Reed Springs	1,884.00	.50.00		1,884.00
Rocky Springs	1,400.00	400.00		1,800.00
Rural Vale	831.63	100.00		831.63
	001.00			001.00

Shady Grove	0.00		0.00
Shelton Grove	194.76	224.04	418.80
Shoal Creek	327.12		327.12
South Madisonville	100.00		100.00
Sweetwater, First	350.00		350.00
Tellico	0.00		0.00
Tellico, First	607.00	418.00	1,025.00
Tevis Springs	0.00		0.00
Towee Falls	150.00	150.00	300.00
Trinity	500.00		500.00
Union Grove	240.00		240.00
Union Hall	91.00		91.00
Union McMinn	400.00		400.00
Unity	0.00		0.00
Upper Shady Grove	0.00		0.00
Vonore	1,715.97	1,933.05	3,649.02
Walnut Grove	0.00	750.00	750.00
Watson Chapel	166.67		166.67
Westside	0.00		0.00
Williamsburg	42.86		42.86
Miscellaneous/TBC	626.00		626.00
Misc AM	0.00		0.00
Misc Interest	16.76		16.76
Total Income	25,740.92	6,721.41	32,462.33





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Individual, Couples & Family Services

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

Sweetwater Baptist Association

Executive Board Meeting Monday, April 14, 7:00 p.m.

Hosted by Cedar Fork Baptist Church

Cedar Fork to host Executive **Board Meeting**

According to SBA Constitution and Bylaws, Executive Board Members are:

- Associational Staff, Associational Officers and Associational Council,
- Pastor/Interim Pastor or in the event the church has no Pastor or Interim Pastor, the Chairman of the Deacon becomes the first Executive Board Member from each church, and
- One elected Executive Board Member from each church.

Names of Executive Board members from each church must be submitted to the Sweetwater Baptist Association, Inc. in order for a list of Executive Board Members to be compiled.

Visitors will be welcome to attend the business session, but only registered Executive Board members will be allowed to participate in the business session.

Sweetwater Baptist Association

Disaster Relief Funds Received for East Tennessee Disaster Relief

200.
700.
2,000.
1,000.
100.
1,754.
100.
5,300.
500.
200.
6.850.
19,280.
8,148.
2,850.
510.
5,000.
545.
1,300.
200.
30.
2,453.
1,258.
879.
10,000.
400.
50.
100.
500.
500.
100.
200.
372.
100.
100.
100.
100. 1,000.
100.
100.
500.
300.
100.
2,000.
500.
500.
100.
340.
100.
100.
200.
500.
300.
500.
100.
280.
500.
200.
400.

DISASTER RELIEF FOR EAST TENNESSEE: In late September, an urgent need was shared with the Churches of the Sweetwater

Baptist Association, as they were asked to pray for many areas of East Tennessee that were affected by overwhelming flood waters. In addition, much needed supplies were collected to fill a tractor/trailer and the disaster relief trailer to help those that

have suffered when lives were impacted by this destruction. Many individuals and churches have responded in a great way to the devastating needs. Numerous individuals, groups and churches provided

over \$89,000.00 in monetary gifts for disaster relief funds. In addition, over the past weeks, countless teams of workers have responded to the call and volunteered at various locations that were heavily damaged from flood waters. Please continue to pray for those who are hurting and have lost so much.



SBA WMU/Ladies Ministry News

We want to thank Pastor Andy Franklin and Mt. Zion Baptist Church for hosting the November WMU/Ladies Meeting.

Thank you, Mt. Zion ladies, for such a gracious welcome and the wonderful food! We had over 50



in attendance, and our guest speaker

for the evening was Phil Roy. Phil serves as Mission Leader at First Baptist Church, Sweetwater and shared about



Operation Inasmuch.



Ladies, plan now to take part in the Week of Prayer for International Missions and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. The suggested date this year is December 1-8. The theme for 2024 is Reaching the Nations, Together.

We are already looking forward to our next WMU

Meeting which will be held May 5th, and hosted by Shelton Grove Baptist Church. Watch for further information, and we hope to see you there. –Rachel Thompson, Associational WMU/Ladies Ministry Director



WHAT IS THE LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFFRING?





Growing up in Virginia, Lottie Moon and her siblings chose to rebel against Christianity. At 18, Lottie followed Christ and was baptized. When she was 33, she sailed to

China as a Southern Baptist missionary. She saw firsthand the world's greatest problem— **LOSTNESS.** In letters to Southern Baptists in America, she pleaded for increasing prayer and giving. Her letters raised more support for missionaries to be sent to China.

Every year, Southern Baptist collect the *Lottie Moon Christmas Offering* where 100% of the money given sends and supports missionaries. . (*Information taken from* lottiemoon.com)

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL NEWS:
Vacation Bible School time is right around the corner! And Vacation Bible School
Jump-Start Kits and VBS materials for 2025
will soon be available for your church leaders to view.

HOWCASE

With that in mind, plans are being made for the Sweetwater Baptist Association, 2025 VBS Showcase. The VBS Showcase will be held on Monday evening, March 10th. Please watch for additional details!

We will have several different VBS themes on display at the Associational Office from different companies. Pastors and VBS Directors will be invited to see the options that are available for their church. Ordering information for each theme will be available.

The Associational staff is always available and happy to help you with 2025 Vacation Bible School materials, workers, and resources. Please contact the SBA Office at 423-442-6604 for more information or if we can be of assistance in any way.



Church News

CITICO: On Saturday, December 7th at 9:00 AM, we will host a **Free Community Winter Gear Giveaway,** along with a free breakfast. Coats, gloves, scarves, school supplies, etc. will be given away, while



supplies last. The giveaway will be held at the Citico Fire Hall at 1665 Citico Road, Vonore.



FELLOWSHIP: We are searching for a **Bi-Vocational Youth Leader**. Resumes can be emailed to Pastor Derek McCosh at

<u>Pastor_Derek@asweetfellowship.com</u>. More information can be found at: https://jobs.sbc.net/job/the-fellowship-church-901-monroe-street-sweetwater-tn-37874-72-bi-vocational-youth-pastor/.

HOWARD'S CHAPEL: On November 10th at 2:00 pm, we will have a **Deacon Ordination Service** for Ron Stewart. All ordained men are invited to come and



be part of the presbytery. On Friday, December 6th at 6:30 pm, we will host a **Free Community Winter Gear Giveaway**, along with a free meal. Coats, gloves, scarves, school supplies, etc. will be given away, while supplies last.

ISLAND CREEK: 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!





LAKESIDE: December Events: **CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**: Dec 8, 6:00 pm. The Christmas Story in the Eyes of the Friendly Beasts. **SPECIAL SINGING**: Dec

29, 6:00 pm, Soul Searchers (Big Creek Singers).

MADISONVILLE, FIRST: All ladies are invited to attend <u>The Gathering Meetings</u>. They are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm at the Tribe Building (Doors open at 6:00 with snacks &



coffee). All men are invited to our **Equipping Spiritual Warriors** Meetings. They are held the second Monday of each month at the Tribe Building. Doors open at 6:30 pm and the meeting begins at 7:00 pm.





NEW PROVIDENCE: <u>The New Providence Mission Center</u> 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: Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, this month's **food distribution day** will be MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25.





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.

ROCKY SPRINGS: We are having Revival Services November 10-13. Sunday Services will be held at 11 AM & 6 PM, and Monday through Wednesday at 7 PM. The preaching schedule will be: SUN MORN: DENNIS



CAGLE; SUN & MON NIGHT: TONY COLLINS; TUES NIGHT: CHRIS MOORE; WED NIGHT: DENNIS CAGLE.



UNION MCMINN: Upcoming Events:
Shoebox Collection – Nov 18-25
Church Thanksgiving Meal – Nov 23, 6 PM
Community Thanksgiving Meal – Nov 28, 11 AM

-1 PM

<u>Celebration of Blessings</u> – Nov 26, 6:30 PM <u>Drive Thru Nativity</u> – Dec 6-7, 6:00-8:00 PM <u>Redeemed & Children's Program</u> – Dec 15, 6:30 PM <u>Christmas Program</u> – Dec 24, 6:30 PM

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).





Dustin George, Pastor at Vonore Baptist has written a new book, **Before Dawn: Knowing God's Presence in the Dark Seasons of Life.** Anchored in biblical principles and written in a warm, storytelling style, this book

offers continued direction, encouragement, and challenge to anyone navigating difficult seasons of uncertainty, grief, or suffering. *Before Dawn* is available on Amazon. **Join Dustin For A BOOK SIGNING AT VIENNA COFFEE HOUSE (MARYVILLE, TN) ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15 AT 6:30 PM.**

WATSON CHAPEL: We are providing a <u>Free</u> <u>Community Thanksgiving Meal</u> on Saturday, November 16th from Noon until 2:00 pm. This will be a drive-through event. Contact the church for more information, 423-442-5459.



Youth Committee





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

Ordinations & Anniversaries

On Sunday, October 27, 2024, **Brandon Watson** was ordained as a Deacon at Shelton Grove Baptist Church.



Miscellaneous



THE LIGHTHOUSE COMMUNITY LIFE CENTER/TRUE PURPOSE MINISTRIES will be hosting their second Community Awareness Meeting on Tuesday, November 12, 2024, regarding the planning stages for the Love Kitchen (Food Services Ministry). The meeting will be at

the Lighthouse, 4930 Hwy 411, Madisonville. We will offer two meeting times, 10:00 am and 6:30 pm. Please contact Michelle Davis at 423-545-9626 for more information and if you plan to attend.



the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting at the Monroe County Courthouse on Friday, November 29th at 7:00 pm. All

church choir members (or anyone who loves to sing) are invited to be part of this Christmas Choir. For practice times or more information contact Charlie Hicks at charlie@fbctv.org.

Sweetwater Baptist Association

696 Anderson Street Madisonville, TN 37354

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ASSOCIATIONAL OFFICERS

MODERATOR

Phillip Johnson

Jamie Johnson Gabe Brannon Officers & Committee Chairmen **Budget/Finance Committee Evangelism Director** Committee on Nominations Bill Wilson, Chairman Gid Redmond, Chairman Shane Johnston Mission Committee Personnel Committee Trustees Gerald Lynn, Chairman Donna McKee, Chairperson Dan Sliger, Chairman Music Director Youth Council WMU/Ladies Director

Nick Farrell, Chairman

VICE MODERATOR

Associational Council

Rachel Thompson



NEWS FROM AROUND THE ASSOCIATION

Welcome New Pastors

Murrays...... Dakota McLemore

SWEE WATER

Director of Mission Visits/Miscellaneous:

Mt Zion; Glenlock; Cedar Valley; Conasauga (Revival); New Bethany; Macedonia; New Zion; Oak Grove; Disaster Relief (East Tennessee); Shady Grove; New Providence; Union McMinn; Newport; Lower Chilhowee; New Macedonia; Rocky Springs; Piney Grove; Paint Rock; First Sweetwater (Annual Meeting); Reed Springs; Mt Isabella; Shelton Grove

Please pray for our churches without pastors:

Cedar Fork; Concord; Fairview (Tellico); Hopewell Springs; Union Grove

Upcoming Events/News

Dec 1-8 Week of Prayer for International Missions & Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

Dec 9 Senior Adult Christmas Show, Union McMinn, 10:30 a.m.

Dec 9 Pastor/Wife Christmas Banquet, Union McMinn, 6:30 p.m.

Jan 23-25 TBMB Bivocational Ministers & Wives Retreat, Pigeon Forge

Feb 22 East TN Ministry Summit, *Notchey Creek*, watch for details Feb 24 Youth Committee Meeting, *SBA Office*, 6:30 p.m.

Mar 1 High School Scholarship Applications due, SBA Office

Mar 2-9 Week of Prayer for North American Missions & Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

Mar 10 VBS Showcase, SBA Office, Watch for details!

Mar 15 CONNECT Youth Rally, Fairview Tabernacle, Watch for details!

Mar 23-28 Spring Break, Monroe County Schools

Mar 28-29 YEC, East TN, Black Oak Heights BC, Knoxville

Mar 31 Missions Committee Meeting, SBA Office, 6:30 p.m.

W-2 and 1099 Forms

IRS Forms will soon be available upon request at the SBA Office.

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

SWEE WATER

BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Newsletter: The next issue of the newsletter will be Ian/Feb.

SHOEBOX DROP-OFF LOCATIONS National Collection Week Nov. 18-25, 2024

The following churches in our Association are serving as <u>Operation</u> <u>Christmas Child Shoebox</u> Drop-Off Locations. There are other drop-off locations in surrounding areas (Etowah, Athens, Loudon, Lenoir City...visit the Samaritan's Purse website for other locations and drop-off times https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/drop-off-locations/).

Fairview Baptist Tabernacle Church, 112 Key Kile Rd, Sweetwater, TN 37874

- Mon-Fri:-10:00 AM-12:00 PM & 5:00 PM-6:30 PM
- Sat: 10:00 AM-12:00 PM
- Sun: 12:30 PM-4:00 PM
- Mon, Nov. 25: 9:00 AM 11:00 AM



Union McMinn Baptist Church, 314 County Road 316, Niota, TN 37826

- Mon-Fri: 5:30 PM-7:30 PM
- Sat: 9:00 AM-11:00 AM
- Sun: 2:00 PM-4:00 PM
- Mon, Nov. 25: 9:30 AM-11:30 AM



WMU/Ladies Group

Please check the Activities Director at 442-3990 for Madisonville Health & Rehab - Nursing Home Birthday Cake Schedule

January Vonore May Concord September... Mt. Zion February Rocky Springs
June Madisonville FBC
October Notchey Creek

March......New Providence
July.....Lakeside
November.....Bethlehem

 The Association Office will be closed in observance of the Christmas holidays. We are thankful to the Association for allowing us this time to spend with family and friends. -Thank you