

# THE MESSENGER of the Sweetwater Baptist Association

*"Seventy-three Churches on Mission Together"*  
Celebrating 184 years, 1830 – 2014

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Check Out Our Website: [sweetwaterbaptistassociation.com](http://sweetwaterbaptistassociation.com)

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**Volume 3**

**January/February, 2014**

**Number 16**

Sweetwater Baptist Association

*Welcomes New Pastors to Family of Churches*



**Vonore Baptist Church**  
Doug Sager and wife Faye



**Walnut Grove Baptist Church**  
Bill Johnson and wife Anna

Our prayers are with these pastors and their churches as they work to share the Gospel of Christ with their community.

## Pastor Training Seminar Monday, March 3, 7:00 p.m.

Hosted by: First Baptist Church, Sweetwater  
Conference Leader: Dr. Mike Boyd

Watch for further details!

**2014 SBA High School Scholarship Applications**  
must be returned to  
**Sweetwater Baptist Association Office by March 1**

Sweetwater Baptist Association

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

2014 Schedule of Events

### • Tuesday, February 25

VBS Preview Clinic for Pastor/Directors 7:00 p.m.  
Sweetwater Baptist Association Office, Madisonville

### • Tuesday, March 25

VBS Clinic, Open House 6:30 p.m., Conferences 7:00 p.m.  
Watson Chapel Baptist Church, Madisonville

Children and Youth are invited to be part of the Associational VBS Childrens/Youth Choir. This group has only ONE practice scheduled. The practice will be on Sunday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2-4:00 p.m. at Watson Chapel Baptist Church in Madisonville. They will perform at the VBS Clinic on Tuesday evening, March 25<sup>th</sup>.

LifeWay's 2014 Vacation Bible School Sampler Kits are available at the Sweetwater Baptist Association Office. Please call the SBA Office at 442-6604 to reserve your kit or stop by to pick up a kit for your church.

Call SBA Office to  
Order VBS Samplers  
442-6604



## Sweetwater Baptist Association.....Executive Board Meeting Monday, April 14, 2014, 7:00 p.m.

SBA Office Building, Madisonville

According to the SBA Constitution and Bylaws, Article VIII: All Pastors, Associational Council (SBA Officers and Committee Chairman) and one elected Executive Board Member from each participating church are entitled to participate in the Executive Board Meetings.

# Director of Missions



By now, all the red and green signs of Christmas have been wrapped, packed, and stored away for another year. The favorite chair has been returned to its desired location, and the tree that temporarily filled the spot is nowhere in sight. The days before Christmas are an exciting time; however, most adults are relieved to view the activities from the rear view mirror. Now is the time to project forward into the New Year, prayerfully capturing God's vision for His Church.

While I was at home during the Christmas break, I read through the Sweetwater Baptist Association, 2013 Book of Reports. There were many things that caught my attention and evoked the theme, "I Stand Amazed". It is amazing we have the support of 73 "churches working together sharing Jesus". This common goal provides a total membership of over 20,500 people. Laboring together, our congregations reported 368 new members baptized and added 341 other additions to the fold.

The amount of support given to the Hope for Haiti project literally amazes me. Because of your gifts, we are able to move to the second stage of construction on the church building. This summer the metal structure to support the second floor will be installed, making it feasible to complete the building next year (2015).

The ingredient that seems to permeate the Association that has truly blessed my soul is your acceptance of your Director of Missions. I stand amazed and humbled by your prayers and kindness.

Borrowing slightly from the words of John, as he addressed the churches in Revelation, I have this concern about our association: Baptism. According to the reports from the churches, approximately twenty churches reported ZERO baptisms. The issue is not those churches, but to raise the focus of winning the lost to Christ. Sharing Christ and His love must be an intentional act. As the Director of Missions of the Sweetwater Baptist Association, it becomes my responsibility to encourage, equip, and whenever possible, empower each congregation as it shares the message of Christ's saving grace.

I hope you will not object if I make a few suggestions that may be helpful. (Besides, advice is free and easy to ignore.)

- 1) Gather church leadership for a meeting to address the issue of baptism
- 2) Consider starting or adjusting a visitation program
- 3) Plan and pray for revival with the purpose of reaching the unchurched
- 4) Start now planning your Vacation Bible School
  - a. Make sure a follow-up team is used to contact families after children come to VBS (many will make professions of faith)

- 5) Consider studying and participating in a Harvest 1-5-1 program (contact the SBA Office or see TBC for further information)
- 6) Consider hosting special events related to the church such as: friend's day, back to school event, special services during school breaks, an evening for adults (remember focus on the lost)

I look forward to visiting all of our churches during this year. I think of you often and I stand amazed at all you accomplish. From the foothills of the Smoky Mountains, your love and hand of ministry reach beyond the world's imagination. I know in 2014 your ministry will be felt in places like Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Iowa, and West Virginia, as well as other places, here at home and around our world. I know you will not forget the next door neighbor who needs Christ. May God bless you as you GO!

--- Tony Rutherford

**HOPE FOR HAITI:** Work on the church/school building in Haiti continues. In early January of this year, a construction company in Haiti was contracted to provide metal beams and steel for the roof support that is between the first and second floors of the building. It is anticipated that the completion for this phase of work will be approximately 10 months. In addition to the hired construction company workers, Pastor Gaetan Alcegaire and other workers from the Children's Orphanage, will be given an opportunity during this time to provide some of the hired work for the construction company.

## HOPE FOR HAITI



We want to thank the churches of our association for your continued support for these orphaned children. Our churches have generously provided items needed for the orphanage and funds to supply food, shelter and schooling for the children. In addition, our churches have provided funding for construction, as well as numerous mission teams to assist in the building of the church/school project. We are so thankful for the way that God is leading our churches to respond to the great need in the country of Haiti. Please pray about how God would use you to be part of this ministry.

### HOPE FOR HAITI FUND October 1-December 30, 2013

Fairview Baptist Tabernacle Church .....	330.00
Island Creek Baptist Church, WMU.....	150.00
Island Creek Baptist Church.....	240.00
Oak Grove Baptist Church .....	240.00
Reed Springs Baptist Church .....	80.00
South Madisonville Baptist Church.....	240.00
Sweetwater, First Baptist Church .....	270.00
Vonore Baptist Church .....	930.00
Walnut Grove Baptist Church.....	40.00
Williamsburg Baptist Church .....	181.70
Bettendorf (Iowa), First Baptist Church .....	480.00
Robert and Linda Goguen .....	240.00
Kathy Kolloch .....	100.00
Don and Sandra Rockholt .....	200.00
Tony and Darnell Rutherford .....	300.00



**PRAYING ACROSS TENNESSEE:** On Friday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, Steve Pearson and Phil Young, from the Tennessee Baptist Convention led a prayer rally at the Monroe County Courthouse. Along with our Director of Missions, Tony Rutherford,

approximately 50-60 pastors, church members and county officials met for prayer. This marked one of the stops along the "Praying Across Tennessee" trail. Executive Director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, Dr. Randy Davis will be visiting every county courthouse for prayer for our state (unfortunately Dr. Davis could not be in attendance in Monroe County, due to illness).

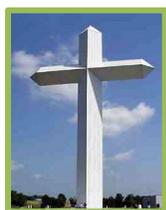


**Macy Small, M.A.**  
 112 Key Kile Road  
 Sweetwater, TN 37874  
**865.414.3269**  
[www.fairviewfamily.org](http://www.fairviewfamily.org)  
**The Upper Room Christian Counseling Center**

*Why is this happening to me?  
 Why is my family suffering so much?  
 Where is God and why isn't He listening?  
 How long will I have to go through this?*

Tough questions, huh? But haven't we all had seasons in our life where we have asked similar questions. Indeed the questions are tough, but we are so blessed to have the answers to these questions, as well as hope and help during the tough times, in God's Word.

Christian counseling will allow you or your loved one to address these questions and concerns and then seek what the truth really is. Many times our emotions and the circumstances cause us to lose sight of God's presence and power. Godly counsel will direct you to look at what God says and what He can do.



*"Call unto me and I will answer thee and show thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not." ~ Jeremiah 33:3 ~*

Yes, the questions are big, but our God is bigger. For hope and help, call today at **865-414-3269**. *Macy Small, M.A., NCCA Licensed Clinical Christian Counselor*



**WMU/LADIES MINISTRY NEWS:**

Well, 2014 has started off to be a very cold year! This leads me to ask about your current church mission projects. Do you collect blankets or food to distribute to those in need? If not, now is a perfect time to start. You can deliver items

to the local police stations, jails, sister churches or centers in your neighborhood for further distribution. You can also call the

**SBA, WMU/Ladies Ministry News**

Sweetwater Baptist Association Office for direction in distributing your supplies to those in need.

I have a friend that works in Chattanooga. She keeps blankets in her car during winter months. When she sees a homeless person, she offers them a blanket. Every time a blanket is offered, a blanket is accepted. What a great mission work! Go a step farther, and put a Jesus tract inside the folded blanket. Most lost and un-churched people will not see or hear about God if not through us. Please pray about this mission that will surely bless your heart, while blessing others.

We are in the early stages of planning a WMU EXPO. At our next WMU Quarterly Meeting, a Committee will be formed to schedule the date, location, prepare and promote the EXPO. It will take many of us working together as we plan for the WMU EXPO. Watch for further details.

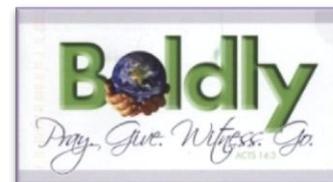
Please remember registration is now open for Tennessee Baptist Convention, 2014 Missions Get-Together. It will be held April 4-6 at the Gatlinburg Convention Center. I encourage you to attend to learn more about mission work across our world, and to see how important mission work is to show the love of Christ to the lost in our communities. Any questions? Please call me at 423-351-4439 or the Sweetwater Baptist Association Office at 442-6604.

We are looking forward to our first WMU/Ladies Ministry Quarterly Meeting of 2014. Island Creek will host our meeting on February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 pm. Everyone is invited to attend; all churches are welcome.

Please remember the birthday cakes for this quarter: January-Ebenezer, February-Rocky Springs, March-New Providence. Have a blessed day. Love in Christ, *Charlotte Hollinghead, Associational WMU/Ladies Ministry Director*

**Missions Get-Together and Connection 2014:**

April 4-6 is Missions Get Together and Connection in Gatlinburg. Registration is now available online at [www.tnbaptist.org](http://www.tnbaptist.org). The cost is \$55.00 per person, if postmarked or registered by March 14<sup>th</sup>. Registration fee is \$65.00 per person (March 15-26) and \$70.00 per person after March 26 and at the door.



**Week of Prayer for North American Missions and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering:**

March 2<sup>nd</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> is the suggested date for the Week of Prayer for North American Missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. The theme for the 2014 Week of Prayer is "Firmly Planted...Rooted in the Gospel" based on Mathew 13:3-9, 18-23.



There is an estimated 260 million lost people in the United States and Canada; this is three of four people. 100% of funds received for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering are used to support missionaries and their work. May we all be eager and willing to share the love of Jesus in order that others may become **FIRMLY PLANTED...ROOTED IN THE GOSPEL**.



**GIRL'S DAY OUT:** This year's *Girl's Day Out*, will be held on **Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 10:00 am, at New Bethany Baptist Church.** This event is a fun-filled day for all girls ages 5-12. The theme is *Walking the Talk*, based on Galatians 5:25...*If we live in the spirit, let us also walk in the spirit.*

We will hear from missionaries who have served at the Orphanage Emmanuel in Honduras; and we will be serving the traditional lunch meal of the children in the orphanage...rice, beans and tortillas. (We will also have hot dogs, since that is the favorite meal for the orphans). There will also be a time of music and entertainment and three breakout conferences for the girls to enjoy.

Last year, the girls really enjoyed the Activity Fair, so we will have one again this year. We may even make some items for the orphans in Honduras.

Girls will also be asked to bring items for the children of Orphanage Emmanuel. Items that can be donated are shampoo, toothpaste, good used shoes and summer clothes.

In order to help us plan for the lunch meal and the number of workers needed, it would be very helpful if church groups would **RSVP by February 27<sup>th</sup>**, by calling or emailing the associational office at 423-442-6604 or [becky.jones@bellsouth.net](mailto:becky.jones@bellsouth.net).

Sweetwater Baptist Association

**HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS**

must be completed and returned to SBA Office by March 1<sup>st</sup>



2014 Applications for SBA high school scholarships have been mailed to pastors and youth leaders. Applications are also available through the month of February on our website at [www.sweetwaterbaptistassociation.com](http://www.sweetwaterbaptistassociation.com). Completed applications must be returned to the SBA Office by March 1<sup>st</sup>.



**HELP NEEDED:** If you have website maintenance skills or video/picture editing skills and would be willing to volunteer your talents to helping with a men's ministry website, please contact Clint Brackett at 423-404-3150.



**YOUTH COMMITTEE:** In my article for this issue of the newsletter, I want to take a few moments to encourage all youth workers. Let me remind you, that as a youth worker, you have one of the highest callings in the universe. Keep pouring into those teens. You're making a difference, even if you don't

see it. Don't be discouraged. And, don't you quit! Oh, and if you haven't been told lately (and you probably haven't)...**THANK YOU!**

God has allowed me to have a calling and a career in helping (or at least trying to help) teens. It is an extremely rewarding, and many times frustrating field. From pop quizzes to pregnancy...from acne to abortion...from dances to death, I've seen a staggering variety of situations in nearly fifteen years of working with young people. As

we all know, to some extent, the American teenage years are anything but stable. Not only are drastic changes happening inside them, but also in their social world. Relationship statuses fluctuate. Boyfriend, girlfriend, best friend, tons of friends...today. No friends...tomorrow! But, let's not be so naive as to think that the teens' problems are not as real or important as ours. Because they are. Listen adults, we may sometimes try to dismiss teenage problems by saying "Oh, that's just how it is with kids" or "It's not that big of a deal. They change from one day to the next. It'll all be okay tomorrow." But, the fact is, even the seemingly little things are very big and very real to them. Yes, situations may change tomorrow, but that doesn't give them much help or hope for today! Remember, even though your problems and those of the teens in your life may differ, the pressures of those problems are very similar. Be there for your teen. Listen. Don't always dominate the conversation. Let me say again...listen. Then, with every smile, with every tear, with every word of advice...point them to Jesus! Remind them that He's there, and He's very active in their world...in their life. Remind them of how His Word says to be "Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7). Hang in there...and hang on to your teens!

Youth leaders, don't forget to be watching for your **Youth Reach 2014** registration packet and begin marking your calendar for July 18-19.

For more information on the Sweetwater Baptist Association youth events, please contact the associational office at 423-442-6604 or call or text me at [423-519-6899](tel:423-519-6899). *Chris Hollinghead, Youth Committee Chairman*

Tennessee Baptist Convention

presents

**2014 Youth Evangelism Conference**



**NASHVILLE Municipal Auditorium March 14-15**

Schedule: Friday Night: 7:30-10:00 p.m. Tony Nolan  
Saturday Morning: 10:00-12:30 p.m. Mike Keahbone

Additional information and register online at [yctennessee.org](http://yctennessee.org)

**INFORMATION FOR CHURCH**

**TREASURERS:** The IRS requires charitable organizations (including churches) to provide written receipts for individual donations of \$250.00 or more.



For amounts less than \$250.00, a written receipt is not required; however, it is recommended that churches provide an annual itemized statement to each of its contributors, regardless of the amount of the donation. The statement should cover the January-December tax year and given to the contributor in a timely manner, for use in filing income tax returns. This written statement should include the following information:

- 1) The name and address of the church;
- 2) The date and amount of each donation;
- 3) A statement that the only benefit received in lieu of the donation was intangible religious benefit (meaning no goods or services were given to the individual making the donation).

**JUST A NOTE:** The SBA Office has a supply of carbonless forms W2, W3, 1099 and 1096. These are available to our churches and are on a first-come, first-serve basis. Please stop by the SBA Office to pick up the forms that are needed for your church.



Tennessee Baptist Convention presents area  
**Financial Issues Facing Churches and Ministers**  
 Seminar for any person interested in church finance. No registration required.



**January 27 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.**  
 Polk County Baptist Association, 146 East Main Street, Benton 423-338-2749

**January 28 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon**  
 Hamilton County Baptist Association, 6625 Lee Highway, Chattanooga, 423-267-3794

**January 29 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon**  
 Knox County Baptist Association, 7709 Westland Drive, Knoxville 865-693-9097  
 Check online at [www.tnbaptist.org](http://www.tnbaptist.org) for additional dates and locations.

Those encouraged to attend are treasurers, administrative church employees, budget, finance or personnel committees, ministers, church staff, church secretaries, or interested lay leaders.

**TOPICS INCLUDE:**

- Health Care Reform – Mandates, Tax Credit, Reporting
- Benefits Programs, Insurance, Retirement, Matching Contributions
- Federal Reporting: Excess Benefit Transactions – Don't Do This!  
 IRS Forms and Publications – When to use, W2, W4, W9 and 1099 – Form 944
- Charitable Contributions: Designated Giving - Is the gift deductible? –  
 Non-cash Gifts - Appraisal Rules - Donation of Vehicles
- Other Financial Issues: Housing Allowance - Expense Reimbursements

For further information, please contact the Sweetwater Baptist Association at 442-6604 or contact Richard Skidmore (TBC) at [rskidmore@tnbaptist.org](mailto:rskidmore@tnbaptist.org) or Heather Beard (TBC) at [hbeard@tnbaptist.org](mailto:hbeard@tnbaptist.org) or 1-800-558-2090.

**VONORE BAPTIST CHURCH:** We are so pleased to announce that Dr. Doug Sager has agreed to serve as our Pastor. Dr. Sager has served nine churches in four states. Most recently, he served as Senior Pastor of Concord Baptist Church, Concord, TN. He served there from 1993 until 2013. He is married to Elizabeth Faye Thompson and they have three children and five grandchildren. In 1961, Dr. Sager received his BA degree from Howard College in Birmingham, AL; in 1965 he received his Master of Theology from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary; and in 1975, he received his Doctor of Ministry degree from Luther Rice Seminary. A characteristic common to all of his pastorates has been substantial growth. When Dr. Sager began his ministry at FBC Concord in 1993, the average SS attendance was 816. During his pastorate, that average grew to over 2300. Dr. Sager has held numerous leadership positions with the International Mission Board; he is a Former President of the Tennessee Baptist Convention and Trustee for the Baptist Sunday School Board.



Dr. Sager will be leading an in-depth study of the Book of Revelation on Sunday evenings, beginning at 6:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to join us for this study.

Also, everyone is invited to join us for a special Easter service on Good Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. A community choir will be sharing music, celebrating the resurrection of our Savior. This choir will be accompanied by children from the *Lifesong School* in Zambia. Our own missionary to Zambia, Mitzi McBride, along with children from the school will be sharing testimonies of God's work through the *Lifesong* ministry. A love offering will be taken and the children will have a table of items to sell, to help support the orphans of *Lifesong*. More information will be available in the next newsletter.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL, 2014:**  
 Vacation Bible School is just around the corner, and we are excited! We want



to help you get off to a great start, so please mark your calendars now. We want to invite Pastors and Directors to attend our **VBS Preview Clinic on Tuesday evening, February 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the SBA Office.** This Clinic is for **all leaders** to help plan, promote, prepare and follow-up for Vacation Bible School in **all churches**. We know you will go home inspired and ready to begin Vacation Bible School at your church.

Then the **Associational Vacation Bible School Clinic** will be held **on Tuesday evening, March 25<sup>th</sup>.** An Open House will begin at 6:30 p.m. and Conferences at 7:00 p.m. **The VBS Clinic** will be hosted by **Watson Chapel Baptist Church** in **Madisonville**, so please be sure and mark your calendar! All leaders, teachers, and helpers are encouraged to attend.

We look forward to seeing you at the **Preview Clinic on Tuesday evening, February 25<sup>th</sup>.** Please contact Associational VBS Director, Katrina Umphrey at 865-250-9620 or the SBA Office at 442-6604 if you should have any questions or if we can help you in any way with your 2014 Vacation Bible School.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL SAMPLER KITS:** LifeWay's 2014 VBS Sampler Kits, *Agency D3...Discover, Decide, Defend* are now available at the Sweetwater Baptist Association Office. Please call the SBA Office at 442-6604 to reserve your kit.

**VBS  
 Sampler  
 Kits**

The 2014 theme is *Agency D3...Discover, Decide Defend* and is based on 1 Peter 3:15. *Agency D3* is a fun-filled week of examining reports, proof and biblical accounts to uncover and defend the truth about Jesus.

In the next few weeks, we will have all materials, t-shirts, supplies and resources available at the Association office, as well. We will be happy to help you with your 2014 order for materials and supplies, or even a team of VBS workers. We are praying for our churches and for your Vacation Bible Schools.

**SBA Church Gifts**  
October 1, 2013-December 30, 2013

Church.....	Total
411 Chapel .....	0.00
Altoona.....	1000.00
Antioch.....	75.00
Beaty's Chapel.....	100.00
Bethlehem.....	2483.18
Big Creek.....	500.00
Calvary.....	228.86
Cane Creek.....	330.00
Cedar Fork.....	710.70
Cedar Valley.....	684.20
Chestua.....	300.00
Christianburg.....	288.26
Citico.....	272.11
Clifton.....	75.00
Community.....	405.05
Compromise.....	150.00
Concord.....	0.00
Druid Hills.....	60.00
Ebenezer.....	178.00
Fairview.....	0.00
Fairview Tabernacle.....	3813.04
Fellowship.....	71.25
Glenlock.....	600.00
Gregory's Chapel.....	300.00
Hilltop.....	0.00
Hopewell Springs.....	1315.00
Howards Chapel.....	229.77
Island Creek.....	600.00
Lakeside.....	0.00
Long Ridge.....	1000.00
Lower Chilhowee.....	200.00
Macedonia.....	0.00
Madisonville, First.....	1100.01
Maple Springs.....	500.00
Miller's Chapel.....	300.00
Mt. Calvary.....	394.71
Mt. Isabella.....	100.00
Mt. Pleasant.....	200.00
Mt. Zion.....	1285.32
Murray's.....	3457.35
New Bethany.....	1103.76
New Macedonia.....	2420.00
New Providence.....	1426.00
North Sweetwater.....	502.76
Notchey Creek.....	1164.03
Oakland.....	100.00
Oak Grove.....	831.82
Old Pond Hill.....	300.00
Old Sweetwater.....	0.00
Paint Rock.....	220.00
Piney Grove.....	0.00
Poplar Bluff.....	722.15
Reed Springs.....	408.99
Rocky Springs.....	2471.95
Rural Vale.....	501.52
Shady Grove.....	0.00
Shelton Grove.....	0.00
Shoal Creek.....	368.00
South Madisonville.....	300.00
Sweetwater, First.....	1050.00
Tellico.....	0.00
Tellico Plains, First.....	2038.00
Tevis Springs.....	139.90
Towee Falls.....	200.00
Trinity.....	500.00
Unicoi.....	237.76

Union Hall.....	391.00
Unity.....	0.00
Upper Shady Grove.....	150.00
Vonore.....	2055.95
Walnut Grove.....	177.73
Watson Chapel.....	750.00
Westside.....	0.00
Williamsburg.....	181.71
TBC.....	2499.99
Miscellaneous/Interest.....	306.53
Total Income.....	\$46,826.36

**THANK YOU:** This is a list of church gifts received in our office October 1<sup>st</sup> through December 30<sup>th</sup>. We want to thank all of our churches for your gifts received for the ministry opportunities provided by the Sweetwater Baptist Association.

**COMPROMISE BAPTIST CHURCH:**

We are in the process of installing a new church sign, made of marble and stone. We are so proud that God has blessed our church with this addition.



**BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH:**

We will be hosting a **Student Revival on February 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>**. On Saturday, services will be from 4:30 pm to 8:00 pm and we will be serving pizza. On Sunday, services will be from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Guest speaker will be Brody Holloway from Snowbird and music will be provided by the SWO Band. Every church and youth group is invited to join us. Please RSVP for Saturday, so we will have enough pizza. For questions or to RSVP, contact Jarrod Johnson at 423-404-4732 or [pastorjarrod55@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjarrod55@gmail.com).



*Tennessee Baptist Convention presents*

**Bivocational Pastors and Wives Retreat**

January 30-February 1, 2014  
Cost \$175 per couple includes hotel, meals, breaks  
Music Road Hotel/Convention Center  
Pigeon Forge, Tennessee



Register online or download registration form at [www.tnbaptist.org](http://www.tnbaptist.org). For more information, please contact the SBA Office at 442-6604 or Ray Gilder (TBC) at [rgilder@tnbaptist.org](mailto:rgilder@tnbaptist.org)

**WEATHER NOTICE:** For some time, the Sweetwater Baptist Association has followed the Monroe County School System closing schedule. If Monroe County Schools are closed for inclement weather, then the Associational Office in most cases is closed. You may want to call the SBA Office at 442-6604 to check to see if we are open in the event of bad weather. We appreciate the Association thinking of the safety of our staff and families during dangerous, winter weather conditions.



For your convenience, an after-hours drop off box is located in the back door at the Associational Office. This can be used at all times and we will receive any items dropped off on the next open business day.

**2013 PASTOR AND WIFE CHRISTMAS BANQUET:**

Thank you to all who attended our 2013 Pastor and Wife Christmas Banquet. This is always a special time for our pastors, seminary extension students, associational officers,



retired pastors and their spouses to gather for a time of food and fellowship.

We all had a great time this year. The food was fantastic! We had a joyous time with our guest



entertainer, Tim Lovelace, who kept us laughing with stories and songs. Johnny Carr blessed us with the message of the Christmas season in song, and Carl Croft shared the message of the Christmas story from the Scriptures.



We want to thank Pastor Frank Hicks and Bethlehem Baptist Church for allowing us to use their Family Life Center for our time together this year.

**2014 ASSOCIATIONAL EVANGELISM CONFERENCE:**

We know you were blessed, if you attended this year's Associational Evangelism Conference.



We want to thank Brother Phillip Johnson for putting together the music for the evening and leading us in worship. The choir was inspiring and uplifting.



Thank you for reminding us that our God is Amazing! Thank you to Scott Smith for serving as our guest speaker. We were challenged by "What It Really Means to Follow Jesus."

We also want to thank Pastor Gale Miller and Notchey Creek Baptist Church for hosting the conference again this year. It is always a joy to meet in this beautiful sanctuary. DVD recordings of the meetings are available upon request at the Associational Office.

The Evangelism Committee, Steve Strickland, Ray Umphrey, Clayton Dunsmore, Steve McDonald, and Lon Shoopman are already working on the 2015 Associational Evangelism Conference. We are happy to share with you that Fred Luter, Jr., Senior Pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans and President of the

Southern Baptist Convention, is scheduled to be the guest speaker in 2015.

**RAM COMES TO MONROE COUNTY:** On January 17-19, Remote Area Medical (RAM) held free medical, dental and vision clinics at Sequoyah High School. Almost 900 people received much needed medical care. In order to provide these services, nearly 300 volunteers worked tirelessly over the three day event. Many of our churches and individual church members selflessly volunteered their time for RAM and ministered to those in need. Special thanks to the churches who provided all the meals for the RAM volunteers (Fairview Tabernacle, Sweetwater First, Notchey Creek, Bethlehem, Tellico First, and Madisonville First). Also, groups from Watson Chapel served coffee and hot chocolate to the patients waiting to be seen in the clinics. Youth groups and other church folks worked in varying capacities (from dental hygiene to taking out the trash). Truly, Matthew 25:35-36, 40 was demonstrated... "For I was hungry and you gave me meat, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you took me in, naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came unto me... verily I say unto you, inasmuch as you have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, you have done it unto me".

**RAM Volunteers** (photos available at time of printing)



*LakeSide*  
6th Annual Singing

Central United Methodist Church Lenoir City

February 22  
6:00 pm

Sweetwater Baptist Association  
696 Anderson Street  
Madisonville, TN 37354

**Return Service Requested**

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US Postage  
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37354

**ASSOCIATIONAL OFFICERS**

<b>MODERATOR</b> Carroll Hamilton	<b>VICE MODERATOR</b> Ray Umphrey	
Pastor Advisor Frank Hicks	Church Growth/Leadership Director Frank Crawford	Mission Committee Don Rockholt, Chairman
Disaster Relief Co-Directors Tony Curtis & Bill Westphal	Historian Co-Directors Kay James & Angie Johnson	Media Ministry Director Betty Wolfe
Men's Ministry Director Clint Brackett	Music Director Phillip Johnson	Prayer Ministry Director Svitlana Self
RA Director Phil Roy	WMU Director Charlotte Hollinghead	Vacation Bible School Director Katrina Umphrey
Preschool/Mission Friends Director Savonna Chambers	Girls/GA Director Michelle Spradlin	Acteens Director Connie Gardner
Annuity Committee Director of Missions	Bivocational Pastors Council SBA Office Staff	Christian Life Committee Kendra McDonald, Chairperson
Committee on Nominations Robert D. Moore, Chairman	Constitution Committee Joe Saffles, Chairman	Evangelism Committee Steve Strickland, Chairman
Finance Committee Dan Sliger, Chairman	Personnel Committee Donna McKee, Chairperson	Program Committee Andy Nichols, Chairman
Scholarship Committee Jason Vance, Chairman	Trustees Gale Miller, Chairman	Youth Council Chris Hollinghead, Chairman

**NEWS FROM AROUND THE ASSOCIATION**

**Welcome New Pastors**

Bill Johnson.....Walnut Grove      Vonore.....Doug Sager

**Director of Mission Visits:**

Antioch, Big Creek, Wilton (Iowa), Tellico (Ballplay), Beauty's Chapel, Calvary, Bethlehem, Chestua, Cedar Valley, Christianburg, Cedar Fork, Pisgah (Decatur), Citico, Gregory's Chapel, Compromise, Fairview Tabernacle, Clifton, Community, Erwin, Concord, Druid Hills

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

Clifton, Island Creek, Old Sweetwater, Shady Grove



Has your church started a **Harvest 1-5-1** group? If so, please let us know by calling the office at 442-6604 or email [becky.jones@bellsouth.net](mailto:becky.jones@bellsouth.net) or [sweetwaterassoci@bellsouth.net](mailto:sweetwaterassoci@bellsouth.net)

**February, 2014**

“The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid.” --Psalm 27:1

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
East TN Healthcare WMU Birthday Cake- <b>January</b> Ebenezer		February 2014 28 Days of Prayer for Revival and Spiritual Awakening				1
2	3 Pastor Conf. 10:00 a.m.  WMU Quarterly Meeting, Island Creek BC, 7:00 p.m.	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 Pastor Conf. 10:00 a.m.	11	12	13	14 No School, Monroe Co	15
16	17 Pastor Conf. 10:00 a.m.  No School, Monroe Co Presidents Day	18	19	20	21	22
23	24 Pastor Conf. 10:00 a.m.  Evangelism Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m.	25 VBS Preview Clinic for Pastors and Directors SBA Office, 7:00 p.m.	26 East TN Healthcare WMU Birthday Cake- <b>February</b> -- <b>Rocky Springs</b>	27	28	

**March, 2014**

“I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.” --Psalm 139:14

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 SBA High School Scholarship Applications due March 1
2 Week of Prayer for North American Missions and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, March 2-9	3 Pastor Conf. 10:00 a.m.  Pastor Training Seminar, Sweetwater FBC, 7:00 p.m. Led by Dr. Mike Boyd	4	5	6	7 No School MCBE	8 Girls Day Out New Bethany Baptist Church 10:00 a.m.
9 Daylight Savings Time Begins	10 Pastor Conf. 10:00 a.m.  Budget Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m.	11	12	13	14 TBC, Youth Evangelism Conference, Nashville	15 TBC, Youth Evangelism Conference, Nashville
16	17 Pastor Conf. 10:00 a.m.	18	19	20	21	22
23 VBS Clinic Kid's Choir Practice, Watson Chapel 2:00 p.m.,	24 Pastor Conf. 10:00 a.m.	25 VBS Clinic Watson Chapel BC 6:30 Open House 7:00 Conferences	26 East TN Healthcare WMU Birthday Cake- <b>March</b> <b>New Providence</b>	27	28	29
30	31 Pastor Conf. 10:00 a.m.	Spring Break, Monroe County Schools, March 31-April 4				

Information for the next newsletter must be received by March 10<sup>th</sup>.

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