

# The MESSENGER of the Sweetwater Baptist Association

"Churches on Mission Together"  
Celebrating 187 years, 1830 - 2017



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Check Out Our Website: [sweetwaterbaptistassociation.com](http://sweetwaterbaptistassociation.com)  
Find us on **Facebook**.

**TONY RUTHERFORD**  
Director of Missions  
[tonyrutherford@bellsouth.net](mailto:tonyrutherford@bellsouth.net)

**SHERI STEPHENS**  
Ministry Assistant  
[sweetwaterassoc@bellsouth.net](mailto:sweetwaterassoc@bellsouth.net)

**BECKY JONES**  
Ministry Assistant  
[becky.jones@bellsouth.net](mailto:becky.jones@bellsouth.net)

**STAR ATKINS**  
Office Volunteer  
423-442-6604 (office)

**SVITLANA SELF**  
Resident Interpreter Volunteer  
423-442-6605 (fax)

**Volume 6**

**January/February, 2017**

**Number 31**

Sweetwater Baptist Association

## 2017 Associational Evangelism Conference Monday, January 23, 6:45 p.m.

Special Music by  
SBA Choir  
under direction of  
**PHILLIP  
JOHNSON**  
Associational Music Director

Hosted by  
Fairview Baptist  
Tabernacle  
Church  
Sweetwater



Conference Preacher  
**Dr. Johnny Hunt**

Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church, Woodstock, GA  
Pastor and author of numerous books, training materials

**Everyone Welcome!**

## Sweetwater Baptist Association VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2017 VBS CLINIC



Training for all VBS age levels

**★ Tuesday, April 10**

Open House 6:30 p.m.,  
Conferences 7:00 p.m.

**Rocky Springs Baptist Church, Madisonville**

Change of  
Location

★ Children/Youth (school age) are invited to be part of the  
**Associational VBS Childrens/Youth Choir**

★ Group has only ONE practice scheduled on **Sunday, April 9th,**  
2:00 p.m. at Rocky Springs in Madisonville

★ Group will perform at the VBS Clinic on **MONDAY** evening, April 10<sup>th</sup>

★ Children/Youth who attend practice and participate in the  
Clinic performance will receive free VBS *Starveyor t-shirt*  
at the VBS Clinic on April 10<sup>th</sup>

LifeWay's 2017 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.

### 2017 MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

- Guatemala Mission Project ... June 23-30, Youth Projects
- Guatemala Mission Project...September 15-22, Adult Evangelism Project

Please contact the SBA Office at 442-6604 for additional information or  
applications regarding these mission opportunities.

**Change of  
Location**

## Sweetwater Baptist Association Executive Board Meeting

Monday, April 24, 7:00 p.m.

**South Madisonville Baptist Church, 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 business of the Executive Board Meetings.

Sweetwater Baptist Association  
**Family of Churches Welcomes**



Pastor Tom Chadwick and wife Joyce  
**Union Hall Baptist Church**

Our prayers are with this dear pastor, his  
family and congregation as they work to  
share Jesus in this community.

Sweetwater Baptist Association

## Girls Day Out Saturday, March 4, 2017

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

March Forth



For all girls ages 5-12

**Vonore Baptist Church**  
Vonore, TN

# Director of Missions



**Freeze-Dried:** Falling snowflakes, twenty-miles-an-hour wind and ten-degrees-below temperature would not prevent Mom from her Saturday morning ritual...washing clothes. In spite of the cold, the ringer washer and two tubs were filled to the proper level. While the water was running through the green water hose connected to the kitchen faucet, Mom sorted the clothes by colors, whites, and bed linens.

After the washer had completed its cycle and two rounds of rinsing, the clothes were placed in a basket and taken to the clothesline. Wooden pins were used to hold each item to the metal wires strung between two cross-shaped posts in the back yard. In the middle of the line, Mom had placed a board to help the sagging lines withstand the weight of the wet clothes.

The frigid air and whistling wind quickly froze the shirts, pants, under garments, and bed linens into odd shaped ice structures. Long before *Folgers* developed freeze-dried coffee, we had freeze-dried clothing. Later Mom would brave the cold attack of winter to remove the clothing from the icicle lines and take them into the house to be placed on hangers. Additional drying would take place near the wood stove or fireplace. When completely dried, Mom would iron the shirts and pants for future use.

Today, it is the almost forgettable *board* that catches my attention. The board was used to help support the clothes line and the clothes. Without it, the clothes would drag the ground, and the work would be ruined. God has provided many such gifts to assist us along our journey. The Church of the living God is one such aid in the support system. Likewise, the association is here to undergird the church in its mission endeavors. If your Christian experience is beginning to "sag", please allow your church to be a support of encouragement and strength to you.

Due to recent tragedies, the sagging spirits of surrounding communities have been evident. Raging wildfires and destructive winds have left their fingerprints on many lives. Your prayers, skills and generosity have been the "unseen board" that has brought support to numerous that were suffering. Thank you for being, giving and sharing the love of Christ.

After the Christmas holidays, many people experience an emotional and spiritual letdown. A sagging spiritual condition can be known to last long into winter. Some find themselves under house confinement because of freezing weather and short days. However, by braving the chilly blast of cold and attending the Sweetwater Baptist Association, Evangelism Conference at Fairview Baptist Tabernacle Church in Sweetwater on Monday evening, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, a spiritual "thawing" could be experienced. The Associational Choir will be singing and Dr. Johnny Hunt, Pastor of First Baptist Church, Woodstock, GA, will be the guest speaker. Prayerfully, we seek God to reenergize our evangelistic vision.

Thank you for your support to the Sweetwater Baptist Association over the past year, and we look forward to serving our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the coming year.

---Tony Rutherford

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING:** The Executive Board of the Sweetwater Baptist Association will meet on April 24<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. In order to make the meeting more accessible to all attending, the April Executive Board Meeting will be held at the South Madisonville Baptist Church in Madisonville.



Upcoming items to be presented at the April Executive Board Meeting include: Director of Missions, Officers and Committee Chairmen Reports.

South Madisonville Baptist Church to host April Executive Board Meeting

**UPDATE ON UNION HALL:** During the 2015 Annual Meeting, Messengers voted to bring Union Hall under the supervision of the Association; and adopted a working agreement between the Association and the Church. During the past year, the Association has worked alongside Union Hall to assist with training church leaders and discipleship of the church. We are pleased to share with you that Union Hall has now called Tom Chadwick to serve as pastor. Please continue to keep Union Hall in your prayers as they work together to reach the lost in their community.



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

A new year means **New Beginnings!** We may reflect on 2016 as a year of pain, guilt, regrets, or struggles. But 2017 is a new year! We can learn from 2016 and now begin a fresh start in 2017.

**Philippians 3:13** states how we can view this new year "**forgetting the past and reaching for the future**".



For help with dealing with the pain of last year, or for helps in obtaining goals for the new year, call **THE UPPER ROOM CHRISTIAN COUNSELING CENTER. Macy Small, M.A., The Upper Room Christian Counseling**

**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS and ANNIE ARMSTRONG EASTER OFFERING:**

March 5-12 is the suggested date for the Week of Prayer for North American Missionaries and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. The theme this year is *Together For His Kingdom*.



The offering is named after Annie Armstrong (1850-1938) a tireless, servant of God, and an advocate and supporter of mission efforts throughout the world. She led women to unite in mission endeavors that ultimately led to the formation of Woman's Mission Union, for which she served as the first corresponding secretary.

It is reported that there is an estimated 260 million lost people in the United States and Canada. The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering is the primary funding for the North American Mission Board's strategy to push back lostness in North America. When people give to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, 100 percent of gifts given are used to support Southern Baptist missionaries serving in the United States and Canada. These missionaries will help others hear the message of Christ and respond in faith to His offer of salvation.

Through your gifts to the Cooperative Program and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, you are helping to spread the gospel in North America. Plan now for you and your church to be part of *Together For His Kingdom* to share the love of Jesus so others in the United States and Canada may come to know Him.

(Information taken from Annie Armstrong Planning Guide for Pastors and Mission Leaders and on-line at [anniearmstrong.com](http://anniearmstrong.com).)



**WMU and LADIES MINISTRY:**

Thank you again to Pastor Joel Tilson and Cedar Valley for hosting the November WMU Meeting. Thank you to everyone that attended and had a part in the program. A special thank you to our guest speaker, Nina Ognivchuk. This was a wonderful opportunity to see and learn about missions first-hand.

**SBA, WMU/Ladies Ministry News**

Please note, there is no Associational WMU Meeting scheduled for February this year. The next WMU Meeting will be held on May 1, 2017 and will be hosted by First Baptist Church, Madisonville. We only have 2 Associational WMU Meetings scheduled this year.

Birthday cakes for East Tennessee Healthcare are to be provided by the Ladies Ministry Groups as follows:

- |               |                |                |                    |
|---------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| January ..... | Vonore         | February ..... | Rocky Springs      |
| March .....   | New Providence | April .....    | Oak Grove          |
| May .....     | Island Creek   | June .....     | Madisonville First |

If you have any questions about the Birthday Cake Ministry, please contact Janice Snyder, Activities Director at East Tennessee Health Care at 423-442-3990. May we have a greater desire for missions in 2017. Love in Christ, Charlotte Hollinghead, Associational WMU/Ladies Ministry Director

**MISSIONS GET-TOGETHER AND CONNECTION 2017:**

March 31-April 2 is Missions Get Together and Connection in Gatlinburg. Registration is now available online at [www.tnbaptist.org](http://www.tnbaptist.org). The cost is \$60.00 per person, if postmarked by March 21<sup>st</sup>.



Registration fee is \$70.00 per person (March 22-April 2) and \$75.00 per person at the door.

**GIRL'S DAY OUT:** This year's *Girl's Day Out* will be held on **Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at Vonore Baptist Church in Vonore**. This event begins at 10:00 a.m. and will conclude at 3:00 p.m. It is a fun-filled day for all girls, ages 5-12. The theme for this year is *March Forth*.



We will hear from missionaries who have served at home and around our world. There will also be a time of music and entertainment and conferences for the girls to enjoy. Registration is required since lunch will be served. Please watch for additional details and information!



**Tennessee Baptist Convention Bivocational Ministers and Wives Retreat**

January 26-January 28, 2017  
Music Road Resort Hotel and Convention Center  
Pigeon Forge, Tennessee

Cost \$225 per couple, covers hotel & meals  
Register online or download registration form at

[www.tnbaptist.org](http://www.tnbaptist.org)

**GUATEMALA MISSION PROJECT:**

Recently the Tennessee Baptist Convention and Guatemala Baptist Convention confirmed plans for Sweetwater Baptist Association mission projects in Guatemala for 2017.



Notchey Creek will be returning to Guatemala, March 25-April 1, 2017. Projects have also been approved for June 23-30 for Bethlehem and Vonore. Tentative plans call for youth to serve on these mission teams, in addition to adult volunteers. This will be the second and/or third year mission volunteers will serve in an attempt to continue ministry work in the same locations of Guatemala where work was begun by teams in 2015.

An adult evangelism project has also been approved for September 15-22. Please contact the Sweetwater Baptist Association if you or your church is interested in serving on a revival mission team in Guatemala in 2017.

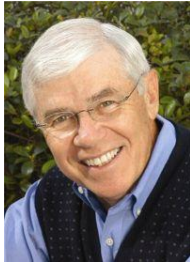
Tentative plans have now begun for the Sweetwater Baptist Association to participate in an evangelistic/music mission project in Guatemala in September, 2018. An Associational Choir would provide special music at the services. Please pray how God could use you to share the Gospel with the people in Guatemala.

Mission volunteers must have a valid passport and any required vaccinations from their doctor or health department. The Tennessee Baptist Convention requires all participants to attend an orientation meeting, as well as More-Life, cross-cultural, security, travel safety, and child protection training. Much of the training is available online or at the SBA Office.

**TENNESSEE BAPTIST CONVENTION presents DEACON AND PASTORS CONFERENCE:**



Dr. Jim Henry is scheduled to lead the **Deacon and Pastor Conference** that will be held on Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at Sevier Heights Baptist Church in Knoxville. Dr. Henry is Senior Pastor of the Downtown Baptist Church in Orlando, Florida and former Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church, Orlando for 28 years. He is one of the most respected Christian leaders of our day. Since his retirement from First Orlando, he continues to speak at conferences and conventions throughout the world.



Online registration is available at [www.tnbaptist.org](http://www.tnbaptist.org). Pre-registration is \$10.00 or \$15.00 at the door.



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL, 2017:** It is a good time now to plan for Vacation Bible School, 2017. We want to help you get started, so please mark your calendars with the following dates!

The **Associational Vacation Bible School Clinic** will be held on **Monday evening, April 10<sup>th</sup>**. Open House to view rooms, decorations, etc. will begin at 6:30 p.m. and Training Conferences will begin at 7:00 p.m. The **VBS Clinic** will be hosted this year by **Rocky Springs Baptist in Madisonville**, so please be sure and mark your calendar with these times and **NEW LOCATION!** All leaders, teachers, and helpers are encouraged to attend.

Just a reminder...**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, April 9<sup>th</sup>**, at 2:00 p.m. at Rocky Springs in Madisonville. The group will perform at the VBS Clinic on Monday evening, April 10<sup>th</sup>. Children and Youth who attend practice and participate in the Clinic performance will receive a free VBS Galactic Starveyors t-shirt at the VBS Clinic on April 10<sup>th</sup>.

If your church does not have Vacation Bible School, we encourage you to prayerfully reconsider. Please remember that we have the Link-up Plan, where churches recycle the current LifeWay theme material and decorations here at the Sweetwater Baptist Association office during the summer. In addition, we want to help all churches as you plan, promote, and prepare for Vacation Bible School.

If your church needs any assistance with VBS for 2017, please feel free to contact the SBA Office at 442-6604 for more information. We look forward to seeing you and your team of VBS workers at the **VBS Clinic on April 10<sup>th</sup>**.

**SBA – 2017 VBS CLINIC Schedule**

- **Sunday, April 9, 2:00 p.m.,** Rocky Springs, Madisonville  
**Children/Youth Choir Practice for VBS Clinic**
- **Monday, April 10, 6:30 p.m.** Rocky Springs, Madisonville  
**Open House, 7:00 p.m. VBS Conferences**

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL SAMPLER KITS:** LifeWay's 2017 VBS Sampler Kits, *Galactic Starveyors..Discovering the God of the Universe* are now available at the Sweetwater Baptist Association Office. Please call the SBA Office at 442-6604 to reserve your kit.



The 2017 theme is based on Colossians 1:15-16 and the motto is "Searching the Visible; Discovering the Invisible.." *Starveyors* takes your kids on a fun-filled week to see the beauty of God's creation. They discover that God gave Jesus power over creation; and all of creation was created through Him, by Him and for Him. Through His death, and resurrection, Jesus fulfilled God's plan of redemption that God had planned for the beginning of time. Biblical studies and content include:

- |                                       |                                      |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| (1) <i>The Relationship Begun</i>     | <i>God Created the World</i>         |
| (2) <i>The Relationship Broken</i>    | <i>Sin Entered the World</i>         |
| (3) <i>The Restoration Promised</i>   | <i>God's Promised to Send Jesus</i>  |
| (4) <i>The Relationship Restored</i>  | <i>God's Plan – Jesus Our Savior</i> |
| (5) <i>The Relationship Continues</i> | <i>God Promises to Help Us</i>       |

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 2017 order for materials and supplies, or even a team of VBS workers. We are praying for our churches and for your Vacation Bible Schools.

LifeWay's 2017 VBS Sampler Kits are available at the SBA Office. Please call 442-6604 to reserve your kit or stop by the SBA Office to pick up a kit for your church.  
National Day of Prayer for VBS...May 21, 2017!

**REMINDER 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 contributor, regardless of the amount of 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 receipt should include the following information:



- 1) Name and address of the church;
- 2) Date and amount of each donation;
- 3) Statement that no goods or services were given to individual making donation.

**TAX INFORMATION:** The Sweetwater Baptist Association 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.



**Please note important changes for 2017:**

- (1) The due date for filing W2 and W3 forms with the SSA is **JANUARY 31, 2017.**
- (2) The due date for filing 1099 and 1096 with the IRS is **JANUARY 31, 2017.**
- (3) The rate for business travel reimbursement for 2017 is **0.53½¢** effective January 1<sup>st</sup>.

**LOCAL DISASTER RELIEF:** Thank you to our churches for supporting the various disaster relief efforts through the association. Donations (both physical and monetary) have been given in response to Hurricane Matthew.



In addition, many churches rapidly responded to aid the workers and victims of the Sevier County wildfires. The first of December, Director of Missions, Tony Rutherford and Pastor Gale Miller delivered a trailer full of supplies to the Pigeon Forge Fire Department



We have been in contact with the McMinn County Dispatch and McMinn County Rescue Squad, and they advised that at this time they did not need donations of supplies.

Monetary donations have been received and will be distributed through McMinn Baptist Association for tornado victims. Anyone still wishing to contribute donations may send those to the Tennessee Baptist Convention-Disaster Relief or bring them here and we will get the money to the designated places.

Again...we thank each of you for your generous and compassionate giving. Let's all keep praying for those affected by these tragedies.



**BLANKET GIVE-AWAY UPDATE:** Thank you to every church and individual who donated blankets to be given away this past November. Over 200 blankets were given to assist people in our community.

**CHURCH GIFTS:** We are so thankful to the churches for the gifts you have shared with our office. These gifts support the various budget opportunities provided by the Sweetwater Baptist Association. Please note, the report listed in this newsletter reflects only church gifts received through December 23, 2016. Gifts received after December 23rd will appear in the next printed SBA Church Gift Report.



Please review this 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, 2016 - December 23, 2016**

Church/Mission	Oct., 2016	Nov., 2016	Dec., 2016	Total
411 Chapel	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Altoona	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
Antioch	25.00	25.00	0.00	50.00
Beaty's Chapel	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bethlehem	857.00	1114.00	876.00	2847.00
Big Creek	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Calvary	90.00	93.19	97.62	280.81
Cane Creek	200.00	200.00	200.00	600.00
Cedar Fork	383.53	498.19	443.64	1325.36
Cedar Valley	657.65	835.70	530.60	2023.95
Chestua	100.00	100.00	100.00	300.00
Christianburg	308.63	0.00	0.00	308.63

Citico	60.85	88.90	115.20	264.95
Clifton	25.00	25.00	25.00	75.00
Community	46.78	65.31	54.75	166.84
Compromise	50.00	50.00	50.00	150.00
Conasauga	100.00	100.00	100.00	300.00
Concord	323.00	0.00	0.00	323.00
Druid Hills	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ebenezer	72.50	0.00	176.00	248.50
Fairview	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fairview Tabernacle	1012.70	1151.96	1155.94	3320.60
Fellowship	0.00	105.00	0.00	105.00
Glenlock	200.00	0.00	0.00	200.00
Gregory's Chapel	100.00	100.00	100.00	300.00
Hilltop	75.00	0.00	0.00	75.00
Hopewell Springs	187.00	180.00	183.00	550.00
Howards Chapel	0.00	632.11	0.00	632.11
Island Creek	600.00	300.00	0.00	900.00
Lakeside	0.00	600.00	0.00	600.00
Long Ridge	1000.00	0.00	0.00	1000.00
Lower Chilhowee	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Macedonia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Madisonville, First	416.67	416.67	416.67	1250.01
Maple Springs	500.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
Miller's Chapel	100.00	100.00	100.00	300.00
Mt. Calvary	101.00	116.00	110.00	327.00
Mt. Isabella	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
Mt. Zion	623.91	578.15	283.29	1485.35
Murray's	2608.00	0.00	0.00	2608.00
New Bethany	309.22	394.33	215.60	919.15
New Macedonia	0.00	0.00	90.00	90.00
New Providence	845.00	480.00	473.00	1798.00
North Sweetwater	80.00	113.70	89.15	282.85
Notchey Creek	423.99	423.99	423.99	1271.97
Oakland	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
Oak Grove	246.52	315.93	290.82	853.27
Old Pond Hill	0.00	0.00	123.00	123.00
Old Sweetwater	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Paint Rock	110.00	110.00	110.00	330.00
Piney Grove	0.00	300.00	0.00	300.00
Poplar Bluff	136.25	136.33	208.24	480.82
Reed Springs	454.40	0.00	0.00	454.40
Rocky Springs	800.00	0.00	0.00	800.00
Rural Vale	218.22	178.60	372.57	769.39
Shady Grove	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Shelton Grove	147.90	0.00	0.00	147.90
Shoal Creek	0.00	173.00	0.00	173.00
South Madisonville	100.00	100.00	100.00	300.00
Sweetwater, First	350.00	350.00	350.00	1050.00
Tellico	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tellico Plains, First	469.00	703.00	431.00	1603.00
Tevis Springs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Towee Falls	150.00	150.00	150.00	450.00
Trinity	0.00	0.00	500.00	500.00
Unicoi	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Union Grove	120.00	120.00	120.00	360.00
Union Hall	38.00	36.00	86.00	160.00
Union McMinn	400.00	400.00	400.00	1200.00
Unity	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Upper Shady Grove	50.00	50.00	50.00	150.00
Vonore	1744.41	2527.98	2090.35	6362.74
Walnut Grove	183.22	227.56	165.30	576.08
Watson Chapel	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Westside	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Williamsburg	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous/TBC	782.00	782.00	782.00	2346.00
Misc AM	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Misc Interest	29.68	27.88	21.71	79.27
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>19,212.03</b>	<b>15,575.48</b>	<b>12,860.44</b>	<b>47,647.95</b>



**YOUTH COMMITTEE:** What a fun night!! We were really blessed to enjoy the *Bean & Bailey Christmas Show* back in December.

Thank you to First Baptist Church, Madisonville for being

very gracious hosts; and thank you to everyone who came out and supported this event.



We have finalized most of the details for *Youth Reach 2017* and Youth Leaders and Pastors will be receiving *Registration Packets* by March.



This year's guest speaker will be **Andrew Osakue**. Andrew is on staff at First Baptist Church, Concord. Andrew has preached several youth revivals/events in our area and we are looking forward to your students meeting him this summer.

We have two amazing testimonies lined up. On Friday Night, **Aaron Small** will speak. Aaron is the Youth Minister at Fairview Tabernacle. For those who may not know, Aaron was a Major League baseball player, who pitched for the New York Yankees. He also has an unbelievable testimony of God's working in his life...if you haven't heard him before, you won't want to miss it.

We will also have **T.J. Jordan, Jr.** from Mt. Canaan Baptist Church in Chattanooga. T.J.'s testimony is as equally impressive. Students will hear about the amazing power of God in his life.

Don't forget...let us know about any of your church or youth events and we will be happy to help you promote them. *Casey King, Chairman*

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS AND YOUTH WORKERS:**

**SBA Scholarship:** Applications due March 1<sup>st</sup> and can be picked up at the associational office or downloaded at [www.sweetwaterbaptistassociation.com](http://www.sweetwaterbaptistassociation.com)

**Tennessee Baptist Foundation Scholarship:** Visit [www.tbfoundation.org](http://www.tbfoundation.org)



**CONCLAVE, 2017**

January 26-28, 2017

Chattanooga, TN

Register now at

[www.ymconclave.org](http://www.ymconclave.org)



Tennessee Baptist Convention *presents*

**2017 Youth Evangelism Conference**

**March 10-11**

NASHVILLE Municipal Auditorium

**Guests Include:** Dave Edwards, The Skit Guys, YEC Worship Band, And More

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

**2017 Youth Reach – July 14-15**

Smoky Mountain Convention Center, Pigeon Forge

**Andrew Osakue**, Guest Speaker

**T.J. Jordan, Jr.**, Testimony

**Aaron Small**, Testimony

Music by **Life Wide Open**

**Watch for Registration Packets...**

**To be mailed out soon**

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:** Prospect Baptist Church in Loudon is accepting resumes for Director of Music. Resumes can be sent to Search Committee, 10900 Prospect Church Road, Loudon, TN 37774.



**MADISONVILLE, FIRST:** We have cleaned out some office space and have several pieces of office furniture to donate to another church. These items are being stored in the Sweetwater Baptist Association, Disaster Relief Building. Please call the Association Office at 442-6604 if

your church is interested in any of these items.

- 2 Desks
- 2 Credenzas
- 2 Computer Desks



**411 CHAPEL:** Pastor Michael McLemore announces a new ministry of the church. **"THE ROAD OF RECOVERY"** will meet weekly in the Fellowship Hall. Anyone interested may call Tom Roach at 315-882-5538 for a confidential

conversation to set-up an appointment explaining the help available and focus on a plan of helps. The class emphasis will be: **"Hurts, Habits & Hang-ups"**. Classes will have limited space, but an attempt will be made to help anyone who has a need in the areas mentioned.

Pray with us that God will use this ministry to help those in need from the Word of God.

**PASTORS ARE INVITED:** Steve Freeman, Senior Pastor of Grace Baptist Church, Springfield, and newly elected President of the Tennessee Baptist Mission Board would like to meet every pastor in the surrounding area. Dr. Freeman will be sharing at a *meet and greet* at Black Oaks Heights Baptist Church in Knoxville, on Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>. The church is located at 405 Black Oak Drive, Knoxville. Lunch will be served at noon, and after lunch, a meeting will follow. Dr. Freeman will explain his vision for the Tennessee Baptist Convention, especially emphasizing "17 in 17", a challenge for every church to baptize at least 17 people in 2017. Lunch is free; however, reservations are requested. Please contact the Sweetwater Baptist Association for further information.





**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD UPDATE:**

This past November, Island Creek Baptist Church served our area as a Drop-Off Location for Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes. Our office staff enjoyed spending a day volunteering with the church. By weeks end, 3,199 Shoeboxes were collected; 182 Cases were

packed; and 9,000 pounds were loaded on a U-Haul and delivered to the processing center in Cleveland. Continue praying for the children who have received these gifts.

**PASTOR & WIVES CHRISTMAS BANQUET:**

Thank you to Vonore Baptist Church for hosting our banquet back in December. We are already working on next year's banquet...and just wait till you see what we have planned!!!



**Dennis & Donna Robinson  
Mt. Zion**



**Richard & Marilyn Parker  
First Baptist, Tellico Plains**



**Bill & Judy Wilson  
North Sweetwater**



**Ollie & Wanda Lankford  
Piney Grove**



**Gerald & Janet Lynn  
Mt. Calvary**

**GOSPEL SINGING:** LakeSide would like to invite you and your church to our Annual Singing called "Singing in the Valley". It will be on February 18, 2017 this year, at the Lenoir City High School Auditorium featuring; *The Partons*, *Tommy Spencer*, *The Diplomats* and *LakeSide*.



I would like to ask for you to put our poster up at your church, and if possible to inform your congregation or senior adult group of this event. I assure you, it will be a spirited filled singing to up lift our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! You will experience Southern, Country, and Bluegrass Gospel all in one night!!

We appreciate all efforts to spread the word to other people and churches and/or forward this email to others. God Bless, Greg Blankenship, For information contact 423-420-9408 or [www.lakesidegospel.com](http://www.lakesidegospel.com)

*Lake Side* Presents  
**Singing in the Valley**  
 Lenoir City High School Auditorium  
 1485 Old Hwy. 95 • Lenoir City, TN  
**February 18th, 2017 @ 6:30 PM**

Featuring . . . . .






*The Diplomats*  
 WWW.DIPLOMATS.COM

*Lake Side*

\$10.00 Donation and Love Offering is Requested. For Info:423-420-9408 or [www.lakesidegospel.com](http://www.lakesidegospel.com)



**Squire Parsons**

Southern Gospel Singer and Song Writer  
 Known for "Sweet Beulah Land"  
 Member of the Kingsmen Quartet

**Performing at Watson Chapel Baptist Church  
 Friday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 7:00pm  
 Everyone Welcome!**

# Sweetwater Baptist Association

696 Anderson Street  
Madisonville, TN 37354

Return Service Requested

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Madisonville, TN  
37354

## ASSOCIATIONAL OFFICERS

<b>MODERATOR</b> Carroll Hamilton	<b>VICE MODERATOR</b> Greg McCosh	<b>Associational Council</b> Officers & Committee Chairmen
Pastor Advisor Frank Hicks	Church Growth/Leadership Director Frank Crawford	Mission Committee Gerald Atkins, Chairman
Disaster Relief Director Tony Curtis	Historian Kay James	Media Ministry Director Betty Wolfe
Men's Ministry Director	Music Director Phillip Johnson	Prayer Ministry Director Svitlana Self
RA Director Phil Roy	WMU/Ladies Director Charlotte Hollinghead	Vacation Bible School Directors Bryan and Kim Williamson
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 David Lane, Chairman
Committee on Nominations Cody Dalton, Chairman	Constitution Committee Kay James, Chairperson	Evangelism Committee Steven McDonald, Chairman
Finance Committee Barry Self, Chairman	Personnel Committee Patty Carr, Chairperson	Program Committee Dwight Torbett, Chairman
Scholarship Committee Terri Sparks, Chairperson	Trustees Carl "Buddy" Richesin, Chairman	Youth Council Casey King, Chairman

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE ASSOCIATION

### Welcome New Pastors

Union Hall ..... Tom Chadwick

### Director of Mission Visits:

Conasauga, Union Hall, Tellico First, Oakland, Delano First,  
Paint Rock, Abingdon, South Madisonville, Sweetwater First,  
New Bethany, Piney Grove, Trinity, Walnut Grove, New Providence,  
Westside, Fairview Tabernacle, North Sweetwater

### Please pray for our churches without pastors:

Concord (Interim), Clifton, Long Ridge



### SWEETWATER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Check Out Our Website

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

Visit us on Facebook

## Upcoming Events/News

“God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power and of love.” —2 Timothy 1:7”

January 23 ..... Evangelism Conference, Fairview Tabernacle, 6:45 p.m.  
January 27-28. TBC Bivocational Pastor/Wife Retreat, Pigeon Forge  
February 6 ..... Evangelism Committee Meeting, SBA Office, 6:30 p.m.  
February 14 ..... Valentine's Day  
March 1 ..... SBA High Scholarship Applications due  
March 4 ..... Girl's Day Out, Vonore, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.  
March 5 ..... Week of Prayer for North American Missions and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering  
March 10-11 ... YEC, Nashville Municipal Center  
March 12 ..... Daylight Savings Time Begins  
March 13 ..... Scholarship Committee Meeting, SBA Office, 6:30 p.m.  
April 3 ..... Mission Committee Meeting, SBA Office, 6:30 p.m.  
April 9 ..... VBS Kids Choir Practice, Rocky Springs, 2:00 p.m.  
April 10 ..... VBS Clinic, Rocky Springs,  
6:30 p.m. Open House, 7:00 p.m. Conferences  
April 14 ..... Good Friday  
April 16 ..... Easter  
April 24 ..... Executive Board Meeting, SBA Office, 7:00 p.m.

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



### SWEETWATER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

### 2017 High School Scholarship Applications

Applications available online at

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

Completed Applications **DUE March 1st**



### SWEETWATER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

### 2017 SBA Pastor's Conference

### Scheduled Speakers

Monday Mornings, 10:00 a.m. at SBA Office

January 16	Frank Hicks	January 23	Mike Townsend
January 30	Tommy Self	February 6	Tony Rutherford
February 13	Tony Rutherford	February 20	Dwayne Leming
February 27	Johnny Carr	March 6	Dennis Ellis
March 13	Dennis Ellis	March 20	Dennis Ellis
March 27	Bill Wilson	April 3	Chris Hollinghead
April 10	Ronnie McDowell	April 17	No Meeting

### East TN Healthcare, Ladies Ministry Groups, Birthday Cake

<b>January</b>	Vonore	<b>February</b>	Rocky Springs
<b>March</b>	New Providence	<b>April</b>	Oak Grove
<b>May</b>	Island Creek	<b>June</b>	Madisonville, First

### SBA Office Hours

Monday-Thursday  
8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

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