

*The MESSENGER*  
of the  
*Sweetwater Baptist Association*



*"Churches on Mission Together"*  
Celebrating 186 years, 1830 – 2016

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**Volume 6**

**September/October, 2016**

**Number 30**

**SWEETWATER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**  
**2016 Annual Meeting**

Theme: *Praise Him -- Psalm 117*

**Session 1: Monday, October 17, 2016, 6:45 p.m.**

**New Macedonia Baptist Church, Philadelphia**

Mission Message: Dr. Ronnie Owens, *Higher Ground Baptist Church, Kingsport*

Video Message from Dr. Randy Davis, *Executive Director-Treasurer, TBC*

Special Guest: Pastor Otto Echeverria

Director of Missions Report

**Session 2: Tuesday, October 18, 2016, 6:45 p.m.**

**Lakeside Baptist Church, Vonnore**

Moderator's Message: David Chambers, *Altoona Baptist Church, Tellico Plains*

Mission Committee Report/ Presentation of Budget/Election of Officers

Memorial Report/Dedication of 2016 Minutes to James Patton



**Pastor Otto Echeverria**  
President, Guatemala Baptist Convention and Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church, Coatepeque, Guatemala

*Annual Church Profiles (ACP's) and Messenger Cards must be completed and returned to the SBA Office by October 6<sup>th</sup>.*

**MEMBERS OF YOUR CHOIR ARE INVITED TO JOIN...**

Associational Choir to provide special music at First Session of Annual Meeting on October 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:45 p.m. at

New Macedonia Baptist Church, Philadelphia

Phillip Johnson (Fairview Baptist Tabernacle Church) will serve as Music Director.

Listening cd's will be available at the SBA Office.

Sweetwater Baptist Association presents

**2016 Church Growth and Development Conference**

*#equipping Churches and Church Leaders*

Hosted by **First Baptist Church, Madisonville**

**Monday, August 29, 6:30 p.m.**

**Breakout Sessions and Breakout Leaders Include:**

- Church Clerk/ACP Training.....Rebecca Jones
- Energize Your Sunday School.....Jonathan Propes
- Church Legal Issues, As Seen On TV.....William T. Bell
- Music: A Call to Worship.....Phillip Johnson
- Church Treasurer.....Deborah Taylor
- Witnessing...How and When?.....Jeffrey Harvel
- Women on Mission.....Louise Borden
- Youth and Mission Involvement.....Various Speakers

- No cost for conference.
  - No registration required.
  - Everyone is invited!
  - Please announce in your church!
- For more information, contact SBA Office at 423-442-6604

**PASTOR AND FAMILY PICNIC**

**Monday evening, September 12, 6:30 p.m.**

Notchey Creek Baptist Church, Pavilion Picnic Area

Reservation required. Please contact SBA Office.



**Sweetwater Baptist Association, Family of Churches Welcomes**

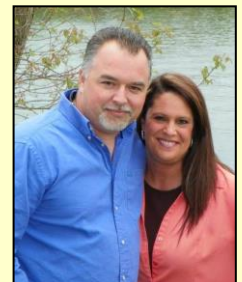
Pastor Carroll Hamilton and wife Cynthia  
**Rural Vale Baptist Church**

These dear servants of God are well known to the churches of the Sweetwater Baptist Association. We are excited the Lord is using them to do Kingdom Work at Rural Vale and are praying for this pastor and church family, as they share Christ with their community.



Pastor Michael Jacobs and wife DeAnna  
**Big Creek Baptist Church**

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



# Director of Missions



**FADING DAYS:** Even though the temperature is still in the 90's, Vacation Bible Schools are slowly ending, and summer is fading quickly. We are receiving good VBS reports from the churches. Many children have made professions of faith, and hopefully, church growth will follow as the new converts are "submerged" in the baptismal waters. We had the privilege of visiting more than 20 Vacation Bible Schools this summer. If you have not yet sent in your 2016 VBS Report to the SBA office, please do so.

The Sweetwater Baptist Association was represented in Guatemala in June. Teams from Bethlehem Baptist Church and Vonore Baptist Church conducted four Vacation Bible Schools, provided several dental clinics, led ladies Bible Study workshops, participated in door-to-door evangelism and revivals, and helped a construction team do electrical work on a church building. Through their efforts, approximately 150 people made professions of faith in Christ as Savior.

I had the privilege of visiting a dozen churches and missions in the Coatepeque area with Pastor Otto Echeverria, President of the Guatemala Baptist Convention. I prayed and spoke with pastors and church leaders about their needs. Some of our congregations may be able to help sister Guatemala churches in the Kingdom work. It is exciting to watch our volunteers labor beside fellow believers sharing the message of the Savior.

We are planning another trip to Coatepeque, Guatemala in September 2017. Several churches have shown interest in participating in the mission opportunity. In fact, some have already committed themselves to go and tell the Good News. If you would like more information concerning the 2017 mission outreach to Guatemala, contact the Sweetwater Baptist Association. Do not allow the fading days of summer to diminish your desire to be a witness for Jesus.

We received enough hygiene products to make a few hundred gift bags for the community give-away. The women's group from Bethlehem came to help organize the items, and several youth came to prepare the bags for give-away. The youth from Lakeside worked with the office staff on give-away day. They also delivered the care packages to the elderly in the community. To those who helped, thank you! Remember we have one more give-away planned. In November, we are giving away blankets for the needy. Begin looking now for blankets on sale as summer fades and fall slowly creeps in. Your warm gift will be appreciated all winter long.

Youth Reach, 2016 is now behind us. Before the sound of music brought by Life Wide Open fades, let me express gratitude to the Youth Committee for a job well done. There seemed to be more response to the messages and testimonies brought by Inky Johnson, Jacob Gilliam, and Shawn McBride than I had seen in some time. Over 400 people were moved by the Holy Spirit as we worshipped together. It is always humbling to be in the presence of a Holy God

whose desire is to fellowship with His children. May God continue to bless and keep you!

---Tony Rutherford



**SEMINARY EXTENSION CLASSES:** The 2016 fall session for *Seminary Extension* classes at the Sweetwater Baptist Association office will begin on September 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. The 12-week course study will be **Genesis 1-11**. Classes meet on Tuesday evening at the associational office.

Please contact the Sweetwater Baptist Association at 423-442-6604 for additional information, fees and to pre-register by August 17<sup>th</sup>. You can also register at the first class.

**GUATEMALA MISSION PROJECT:** In June, Tony Rutherford met with Pastor Otto Echeverria, President of Guatemala Baptist Convention. They visited several areas in Guatemala where little or no ministry work is being done. With this in mind, the Sweetwater Baptist Association plans to participate in an evangelistic-type project in **September, 2017**. Our tentative dates are September 15-22. We are also hopeful that teams will return in 2017 to continue ministry projects and/or do further work in areas where ministry focus has already been established.



These evangelistic mission projects will be similar to the original vision planning trip in 2015. We would like to have 3-6 mission teams. Each team should consist of one pastor/preacher, with three to five additional members on each team to do work in the new locations.

**Please contact the Sweetwater Baptist Association immediately if you are interested in leading and/or serving on a mission team in Guatemala.** Applications and additional information are available at the Sweetwater Baptist Association office.

Mission volunteers must have a valid passport and routine vaccinations are required. Background screening is required for all participants. The Tennessee Baptist Convention requires all participants to attend an orientation meeting, as well as *More Life*, cross-cultural, security, safe travel, and child protection training. Training is available on-line and at the SBA Office.



**WELCOME PASTOR OTTO ECHEVERRIA:** It is with great joy that we welcome Pastor Otto Echeverria to the Sweetwater Baptist Association. Pastor Otto is President of Guatemala Baptist Convention, and Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church in Coatepeque, Guatemala. He will preach at several of the churches of the Sweetwater Baptist Association, and give a report to the Messengers at the Annual Meeting during his visit October 14-20.

We thank all of you that are part of sharing the Gospel with the people in Guatemala.

*The tentative schedule for Pastor Otto Echeverria is as follows:*

October 14	Arrive in Madisonville
October 15	<b>Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Pastor Prayer Breakfast</b> (Report on Work in Guatemala)
October 16 (am)	<b>Bethlehem Baptist Church</b> (Preach)
October 16 (pm)	<b>Vonore Baptist Church</b> (Report on Work in Guatemala)
October 17 (am)	<b>SBA Office, Pastor' Conference</b> (Preach)
October 17 (pm)	<b>New Macedonia Baptist Church, Annual Meeting</b> (Report on Work in Guatemala)
October 18 (pm)	<b>Lakeside Baptist Church, Annual Meeting</b> (Attend)
October 19 (pm)	<b>Notchey Creek Baptist Church</b> (Preach)
October 20	Depart Knoxville

**ASSOCIATIONAL CHOIR TO SING AT ANNUAL MEETING:**

Members of your church choir are invited to be part of the Associational Choir that will provide special music at the First Session of the 2016 Annual Meeting. The first session will be held on Monday evening, October 17<sup>th</sup> at New Macedonia Baptist Church, Philadelphia. The session will begin at 6:45 p.m. and the choir will need to meet at the church on the 17<sup>th</sup> of October by 6:30 p.m. in order to prepare for worship. Phillip Johnson from Fairview Baptist Tabernacle Church will serve as the Music Director. Listening cd's will be available at the Associational Office. Please stop by the SBA Office at your convenience to pick up a copy of the cd and feel free to make additional copies.



**UPDATE ON HAITI PROJECT:**

Our Association of Churches has responded in a great way to the partnership mission in Haiti. Over the years, churches provided for children at the orphanage operated by Pastor Gaetan Alcegaire. Food, clothing, shelter and schooling were furnished for the children. In addition to providing support for the orphan children, construction teams and materials for a new church/school building at the Foundation Yaveh Shamma for the Children Orphanage operated by Pastor Gaetan was also provided.



As we conclude the partnership in Haiti, please continue to pray for Pastor Gaetan and the children at the orphanage. Pray also, that others will step forward to continue to provide for the needs at the orphanage. Pray that the love of Christ will continue to be shared in the country of Haiti.

**ATTENTION CHURCH CLERKS:**

You should have already picked up your Annual Church Profile (ACP) packet and Messenger cards for the 2016 Annual Meeting. The ACP and Messenger cards must be completed and returned to the SBA Office by October 6<sup>th</sup>. Please remember that in accordance with the Constitution and By-Laws of the Sweetwater Baptist Association, each church is entitled to ten (10) Messengers and two (2) alternates. A **Messenger card must be completed for all pastors, as well as Officers and Committee Chairman of the Association** in order for them to participate in the business of the Association.



**HOPE FOR HAITI - ORPHANAGE/CHURCH/SCHOOL SUPPORT FUND**

*(Gifts received 10.01.2015 through 07.27.2016)*

Altoona Baptist Church .....	1000.00
Fairview Baptist Tabernacle Church .....	1600.00
Island Creek Baptist Church, WMU .....	80.00
Island Creek Baptist Church .....	400.00
Oak Grove Baptist Church .....	920.00
Reed Springs Baptist Church.....	800.00
South Madisonville Baptist Church.....	800.00
Sweetwater, First Baptist Church .....	860.00
Tellico (Ballplay) Baptist Church.....	1000.00
Vonore Baptist Church.....	1600.00
Williamsburg Baptist Church.....	291.57
Bettendorf (Iowa), First Baptist Church.....	1360.00
Tony and Darnell Rutherford.....	600.00

If you need help completing your Messenger cards or ACP, please contact the Associational Office at 442-442-6604 and we will be happy to assist you in this process.

**CHURCH GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT:**

The Church Growth and Development Conference will be held on Monday evening, August 29, and will be hosted by First Baptist Church in Madisonville. The conference begins at 6:30 p.m., and breakout sessions will conclude by 8:30 p.m.

**#equipping...**  
*Churches and  
 Church Leaders*  
**August 29, 6:30 p.m.**  
**First Baptist Church**  
**Madisonville**

The purpose of this conference is to equip, train and strengthen our church leadership. We have 8 breakout sessions scheduled. These include training for Trustees, Pastors, Clerks, Deacons, Treasurers, Music Directors, Church Leadership, Sunday School Directors, Outreach, Visitation, WMU and Youth Directors. Please note the special breakout sessions focusing on legal issues, financial/tax issues, clerk training and witnessing are being offered. Other important sessions include leadership training for workers in Sunday School, music, WMU and youth.

Since we cannot personally reach everyone that might benefit from attending this conference, **we would appreciate your sharing this information with teachers, officers and leadership in your church.** We have often been told this is one of the best training conferences offered each year by our Association. We feel we have a breakout session for everyone that attends.

We look forward to seeing you and others from your church on the 29<sup>th</sup> of August at the First Baptist Church in Madisonville. Everyone is invited.

**PASTOR AND WIFE**

**CHRISTMAS BANQUET:**

The Annual Pastor and Wife Christmas Banquet will be held on Monday evening, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. The catered meal/banquet will be held at Vonore Baptist Church, Family Life Center in Vonore. In addition to pastors and their wives, our invitation includes seminary extension students, retired pastors, associational officers and leadership, as well as their spouses.



Elizabeth Rose will be our guest for the evening. Elizabeth is a local storyteller and shares Appalachian folktales, mountain ballads and personal tales. You will enjoy her humor and expressive enthusiasm, as she shares personal stories of growing up in small town East Tennessee. Elizabeth currently is principal at a local school.

In order to prepare for the correct number in attendance, reservations are required. Please call the SBA Office at 442-6604 or email the number attending to [becky.jones@bellsouth.net](mailto:becky.jones@bellsouth.net) or [sweetwaterassoci@bellsouth.net](mailto:sweetwaterassoci@bellsouth.net).

**VONORE BAPTIST CHURCH:**

hosting World Mission Conference  
 October 13, 2016 at 6:00 pm.  
 Meet missionaries in person.  
 Churches are invited to attend.



**October - Pastor Appreciation Month**

**Pastor Appreciation Day** is an excellent opportunity for churches to affirm love and appreciation to those who are called by God and serving as Shepherds of the Church. Suggestions for celebrating **Pastor Appreciation Day** include presentation of appreciation certificate or plaque, gift certificate or monetary gift, reception following service, special prayer time for family, spiritual guidance and encouragement.

Tennessee Baptist Convention presents

**Making Connections**

**September 12, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.**

**East Maryville Baptist Church**  
 Maryville, Tennessee



**Training for Pastor, Sunday School Directors, Adult, Youth, Children and Preschool Leaders and Teachers**

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



Contrary to the myth that only “crazy people” talk to a counselor, many individuals and families have greatly benefited from sharing their struggle with a counselor. Here is a list of some of the most common issues where you may benefit from talking to a Counselor:

**Services include....**

- Children, Teen, & Family Counseling
- Premarital & Marriage Counseling
- Divorce & Grief Recovery
- Individual sessions for stress, addictions, anger, self-esteem, & other personal struggles
- Classes & workshops

1. Major life events such as separation or divorce, death, a financial crisis, health issues, or addiction.
2. Stress, Worry, Anxiety, or Depression
3. Anger Management
5. Blended Family Issues
6. Marriage & Parenting Concerns
7. Lack of Self-esteem & Confidence

Whatever your struggle, reach out for hope and help.

**Macy Small, M.A., The Upper Room Christian Counseling**

“...who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God”. 2 Corinthians 1:4

**2016 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL STATISTICS:**

We need to receive Vacation Bible School reports for 2016 from all our churches. This information should include total enrollment, average attendance and number of decisions for Christ. If your church has not sent in your VBS report, please call the SBA office at 442-6604 or email [becky.jones@bellsouth.net](mailto:becky.jones@bellsouth.net) or [sweetwaterassoci@bellsouth.net](mailto:sweetwaterassoci@bellsouth.net) with your VBS numbers immediately. This information will appear in the 2016 Minutes of the Sweetwater Baptist Association.



**VBS - SUMMER REQUEST FOR 2017 – Milan Illinois**

A summer mission team is needed to do Vacation Bible School in Milan, Illinois in 2017. Please contact the Sweetwater Baptist Association office at 442-6604 for further information.

**2017 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:** Can you believe that it is already time to begin thinking about Vacation Bible School, 2017? Lifeway’s Jump-Start Kits for VBS 2017 “Galactic Starveyors...Discovering the God of the Universe.” will be available at the SBA Office in December.



**Galactic Starveyors** focus their telescopes on the marvels painted in the sky by the Creator of the universe. Kids will discover the wonder among all wonders, that God (who created everything there is— visible and invisible) wants a personal relationship with them! They will learn that God (who created all) loves them. The VBS Motto is *Searching the Visible; Discovering the Invisible*, with Scripture focus from Colossians 1:15-16.

You can call the Sweetwater Baptist Association office today to **RESERVE** “Galactic Starveyors...Discovering the God of the Universe.” Jump-Start Kits! All 2017 VBS materials will be at the SBA Office in January, and of course, the VBS Clinic will be in early spring and then VBS Link-up in the summer, 2017! **Please call the Associational Office at 442-6604 to reserve the kit and materials that are just right for your church.**

If you have not used LifeWay Vacation Bible School materials and supplies in the past, we encourage you to stop by the Associational Office to look at the *Jump-Start Kits*. We will be happy to help you with your 2017 Vacation Bible School team, resources and supplies.



**WMU/  
LADIES  
MINISTRY  
NEWS:**

**SBA  
WMU/Ladies  
Ministry News  
Charlotte Hollinghead**

In 1902, W.C. and Mildred Golden challenged Tennessee Baptists to pray for and give to missions within the state. They initiated the offering that was

later named after them. Today, churches are encouraged to learn about Tennessee missions and ministry as they participate in the Week of Prayer for Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions. Please pray for missionaries and Tennessee ministries.



The suggested date for the 2016 Week of Prayer for Golden Offering and Tennessee Missions is September 11-18. However, your church leaders may choose to observe the season of prayer and giving at any time. The theme for 2016 is, “It’s Personal! Reach, Connect, Give.”

Thank you to all of the churches who participate in the Birthday Cake Ministry at East Tennessee

*Sweetwater Baptist Association,*  
**WMU Quarterly Meeting**  
 Hosted by **Cedar Valley Baptist Church, Sweetwater TN**  
**Monday, November 7, 7:00 p.m.**  
 Watch for further information.

Healthcare. For additional information or if you have any questions about the birthday cakes, please contact Janice Snyder, Activities Director at East Tennessee Healthcare at 442-3990. Remember when it’s your time to provide the birthday cakes... **August:** 411 Chapel; **September:** Mt. Zion; **October:** Notchey Creek and **November:** Bethlehem.

Please continue to pray for all missions that our churches are part of, but most of all, pray that the lost are saved. May God bless you as you go out into the mission field. Love in Christ, *Charlotte Hollinghead*, Associational WMU Director

**SWEETWATER FIRST:**

We have enjoyed a busy summer with VBS, a Valley Park event, “Back the Blue” and “National Night Out”. Our children and youth attended camps; our youth participated in World Changers and we prayer-walked our schools, downtown and our church. God has blessed our efforts in reaching out to our community with the love of our Lord Jesus. We thank Him for the souls that were saved. –*Cindy Lemmonds*



**VONORE:** Our youth ministry is working with the *Scott Dawson Evangelistic*



Association to organize several *See You at the Pole* assemblies, September 26-28. A Rally will be held Wednesday evening, Sept. 28, tentatively scheduled at Hiwassee College, with Scott Dawson speaking at the Rally and *Calling Glory* providing the worship music. Scott has conducted over 2,000 assemblies at Jr. High and High Schools throughout the country. **There will be an informational and planning meeting on Tuesday, August 30<sup>th</sup> at the associational office; this meeting will begin at 6:30 pm and snacks will be provided. Scott Dawson will be leading this meeting and we ask that all Youth Pastors and Youth Leaders please attend.**





**YOUTH COMMITTEE:** By the time you read this, our students will be back in school. Our prayer is that those who attended Youth Reach this summer were challenged and encouraged to go back into their schools and share Jesus with their friends and classmates. We heard dynamic preaching, awesome testimonies and great music, but what made this year's event so wonderful was the Holy Spirit moving so

greatly during the invitation time. Many, many students came forward in response to the preached word; and we are continuing to pray for God's leadership in their lives.



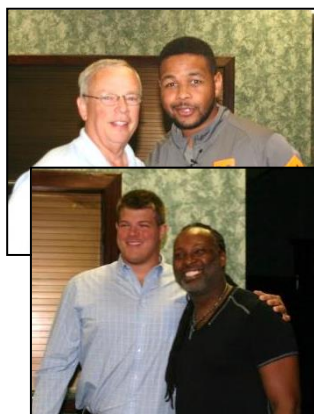
The young man who shared his testimony on Saturday morning is a local, east Tennessean, who played football at the University of Tennessee. **Jacob Gilliam** had a great testimony of the power of prayer and of God's healing in his life. Jacob is looking for other opportunities to share his faith, and asked that we provide his contact information to our churches. If your church is having a youth event, revival, etc., or would just like to have him speak at



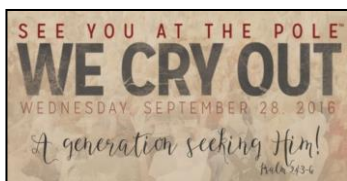
your church, you can schedule him by contacting his father, David, at (865) 661-0052 or [david.j.gilliam@medtronic.com](mailto:david.j.gilliam@medtronic.com). You can also reach Jacob at (865) 202-4670 or [jacob@mltlaw.com](mailto:jacob@mltlaw.com).

The Youth Committee is also making plans for next year's Youth Reach, so mark your calendars for **July 21-22, 2017**. We ask that you help us pray for God's guidance and direction in planning. Our prayer always, is that this associational youth event will help our students in their walk with Christ and in their witness for Him.

--Casey King, Chairman



**SEE YOU AT THE POLE, September 28<sup>th</sup>:** SYATP Armbands are available at the associational office. Youth Leaders or FCA members, please feel free to stop by and pick up some for your school.



**SHOES FOR ORPHAN SOULS** serves children in need all over the world. Since 1999, more than 3 million pairs of new shoes and socks have been given to children in over 80 countries; with 30% of these going to children in the United States. You can help by donating NEW Sneakers and Socks during the month of August. For more information, call 423-442-2700.

Needed .....New Sneakers/Athletic Shoes & Socks  
 Sizes.....Youth 1 through Adult 7  
 Drop-Off Dates .....August 1-31  
 Drop-Off Location .....Mac's Auto Care, 819 Englewood Rd, Madisonville

**HYGIENE BAG GIVE-AWAY:** Thank you to every church and individual who donated supplies, money or time to serve our community. Special thanks to Bethlehem ladies for sorting items;



Lakeside Youth for delivering bags to the elderly; and students from Island Creek, Notchey Creek, Oak Grove and 411 Chapel for packing the bags and working the distribution day.



**NOTCHEY CREEK:** Pastor Gale Miller invites everyone to attend *Homecoming Services* at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. *Revival Services* will be held September 18-21, with various evangelists scheduled for each service. Dr. Lon Shoopman will begin the revival services on Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. The nightly services will be held at 7:00 p.m., with Greg McCosh, Doug Alexander, Frank Hicks and Richard Lane preaching.



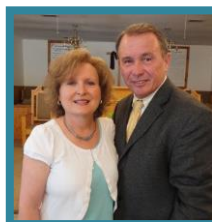
*Hallelujah Night* will be held on Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 until 7:00 pm in the church outdoor pavilion area. Free food, fun, cake walk, inflatables, and of course - CANDY! This is our annual fall celebration for the church and community. Everyone is invited.



**SHOAL CREEK:** Our Vacation Bible School went very well this year. 15 souls confessed Christ, praise the Lord! We are now looking forward to our upcoming revival, beginning on August 14<sup>th</sup>, during the morning service, with Mitch Ingram bringing the message. Please help us pray that more come to know The Lord.

--Rodney Everhart

**MT. ZION:** Our Homecoming Service will be held on August 21<sup>st</sup>, beginning at 10:30 am. Tommy Self will bring the message. We will also have a "note-burning" of our building debt. Rocky Flatts will sing in the afternoon service. Everyone is invited to join us.



**RURAL VALE:** We are pleased and very happy to welcome our new Pastor, Rev. Carroll Hamilton, and his wife Cynthia, to our church. We are thankful God has sent them to minister here at Rural Vale, and we are looking forward to serving together with them.

**SHELTON GROVE:** Everyone is invited to attend our monthly singing services. Each one begins at 6:30 pm.

- Sept. 4: The Lingerfelts
- Oct. 2: Rocky Flatts
- Nov. 6: Young Praise





**CHRISTIANBURG:** On July 24<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Darrell Cardin serving as our Pastor. The church presented him with gifts, a dinner and a plaque to commemorate his years of service to the church. The church ordained Darrell on July 21, 1991. Since that time, Darrell, and his wife Gail have shared many joyous, as well as many sad, occasions with our church family. We thank them for their

time spent comforting, praying, visiting, leading, crying and rejoicing with us. They are a blessing to our church. Darrell always has a smile for each member...he doesn't just "talk the talk", he "walks the walk". We are thankful the Lord placed Darrell and Gail in our church and we'll keep them as long as the Lord allows. Thank you Darrell and Gail for all you do. We love you!

**UNION-McMINN:**  
On June 4-11, 2016, a team of 49 members from Union



McMinn Baptist Church traveled to Gulfport, MS, to The Church at Windance, for a week of missions. These missions included: VBS (Mon-Thurs), distributing 1500 flyers for VBS visitation, and building maintenance.

Several of the maintenance projects were repairing air conditioners, replacing exterior doors, installing lights, hanging sheetrock, revamping kitchen area, resurfacing playground, and several other projects. By the week's end, 9 souls had come to a saving knowledge of Jesus. We Praise the Lord for His blessings!! --Sondra White

**ROCKY SPRINGS:** Our Homecoming service will be held on Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>, with Rev. Gerald Atkins bringing the message. Special singing will begin at 10:00 a.m., and a covered dish meal will follow the service. Our fall Revival will begin on Sunday morning, October 23, at 10:00 am with Rev. Jack Pennington preaching. That evening at 6:00, Rev. Tony Rutherford will be bringing the message. Pastors Gale Miller, Frank Hicks, and Jeremy McNally will be bringing the messages Monday-Wednesday night at 7:00 pm. There will be special singing each night. Please come join us and expect God to great things! -- Kim Williamson



**ISLAND CREEK:** We are so excited to announce that we have begun an Awana program on Wednesday nights. Awanas begins at 6:45 and is for Grades K-8. There will also be a Youth Class, and an Adult Bible Study class. Please help us pray that this new ministry opportunity will bring children (and families) to Christ and help them grow in their relationship to Him



**CHURCH GIFTS:** We are so thankful to the churches for the gifts you have shared with the Sweetwater Baptist Association. The church gifts support the various budget opportunities provided by the SBA. Please review the following information, and contact our office if you should have any questions. We thank you again for your support of the budget ministries of the Association.



**SBA Church Gifts through July 27, 2016**

Church/Mission	Total
411 Chapel	750.00
Altoona	0.00
Antioch	250.00
Beaty's Chapel	0.00
Bethlehem	9,759.00
Big Creek	500.00
Calvary	942.18
Cane Creek	1,100.00
Cedar Fork	5,010.00
Cedar Valley	7,236.80
Chestua	1,000.00
Christianburg	1,271.63
Citico	682.04
Clifton	250.00
Community	668.75
Compromise	500.00
Conasauga	1,000.00
Concord	794.96
Druid Hills	60.00
Ebenezer	719.10
Fairview	120.00
Fairview Tabernacle	11,563.88
Fellowship	757.50
Glenlock	1,800.00
Gregory's Chapel	1,000.00
Hilltop	0.00
Hopewell Springs	1,606.00
Howards Chapel	1,109.34
Island Creek	2,400.00
Lakeside	900.00
Long Ridge	1,000.00
Lower Chilhowee	200.00
Macedonia	300.00
Madisonville, First	4,166.70
Maple Springs	500.00
Miller's Chapel	1,000.00
Mt. Calvary	1,106.34
Mt. Isabella	100.00
Mt. Zion	4,229.75
Murray's	2,960.34
New Bethany	2,939.40
New Macedonia	0.00
New Providence	4,169.00
North Sweetwater	938.00
Notchey Creek	4,116.40
Oakland	200.00
Oak Grove	2,518.61
Old Pond Hill	299.00
Old Sweetwater	1,000.00
Paint Rock	1,100.00
Piney Grove	700.00
Poplar Bluff	1,696.03
Reed Springs	2,423.76
Rocky Springs	5,040.00
Rural Vale	1,651.62
Shady Grove	200.00
Shelton Grove	1,662.11
Shoal Creek	585.00
South Madisonville	1,000.00
Sweetwater, First	3,500.00
Tellico	1,000.00
Tellico Plains, First	5,724.00
Tevis Springs	232.25
Towee Falls	1,500.00
Trinity	0.00
Unicoi	84.26
Union Grove - Niota	960.00
Union Hall	757.32
Union McMinn-Niota	4,400.00
Unity	600.00
Upper Shady Grove	500.00
Vonore	15,982.69
Walnut Grove	2,709.29
Watson Chapel	0.00
Westside	0.00
Williamsburg	498.24
TBC	7,820.00
Miscellaneous/AM	100.00
Miscellaneous/Interest	275.57
Total Income	\$148,196.86

**Sweetwater Baptist Association**  
**2016 Annual Meeting Program**  
 Theme: *Praise Him* – Psalm 117

Session I: Monday Evening, October 17, 2016, 6:45 p.m.  
 New Macedonia Baptist Church, Philadelphia

Session II: Tuesday Evening, October 18, 2016, 6:45 p.m.  
 Lakeside Baptist Church, Madisonville

Program Committee

Lewis Jones, Dwight Torbett, Dennis Robinson, Frank Crawford

Director of Missions	Vice-Moderator	Moderator
<b>Tony Rutherford</b>	<b>Dwight Torbett</b>	<b>David Chambers</b>
	Celebrating 186 Years...1830-2016	

**Monday Evening Program**

**Session I, October 17, 2016, 6:45 p.m.**  
*New Macedonia Baptist Church, Philadelphia*

6:45	<i>Prelude</i>	<i>Associational Choir</i>
	<i>Welcome and Prayer</i>	<i>Bill White</i>
	<i>Presentation of Gavel</i>	<i>Tony Rutherford</i>
	<i>Call to Order</i>	<i>Moderator</i>
	<i>Video Message from Executive Director-Treasurer, TBC</i>	<i>Dr. Randy Davis</i>
	<i>Constitution of Body</i>	<i>Sheri Stephens</i>
	<i>Report of Program Committee</i>	<i>Lewis Jones</i>
	<i>Report of Missions Committee</i>	<i>Carl Croft</i>
7:00	<i>Director of Missions Report</i>	<i>Tony Rutherford</i>
	<i>Mission Ministry in Guatemala</i>	<i>Otto Echeverria</i>
	<i>Offering</i>	<i>Associational Choir</i>
7:40	<i>Message</i>	<i>Dr. Ronnie Owens</i>
	<i>Benediction</i>	

All offerings to be used for the SBA Mission Ministries.

The 2016 Associational Council Report includes Recognition of New Pastors. All written reports for the Ministries of the Sweetwater Baptist Association and the Reports for the Ministries of the TBC are included in the 2016 Minutes of the Sweetwater Baptist Association.

**Tuesday Evening Program**

**Session II, October 18, 2016, 6:45 p.m.**  
*Lakeside Baptist Church, Madisonville*

6:30	<i>Memorial Report</i>	<i>Video Presentation</i>
6:45	<i>Welcome and Prayer</i>	<i>Carl Croft</i>
	<i>Presentation of Gavel</i>	<i>Director of Missions</i>
	<i>Call to Order</i>	<i>Moderator</i>
	<i>Dedication of 2016 Associational Minutes</i>	<i>Director of Missions</i>
7:00	<i>Business Session</i>	<i>Moderator</i>
	<i>Appointment of Committee on Nominations</i>	<i>Moderator</i>
	<i>Election of Officers</i>	<i>Vice-Moderator</i>
	<i>Committee on Nominations</i>	<i>Carl Croft</i>
	<i>Treasurer's Report</i>	<i>Sheri Stephens</i>
	<i>Presentation of Budget</i>	<i>Barry Self</i>
	<i>Presentation of Missions Committee Recommendations</i>	<i>Carl Croft</i>
	<i>Presentation of 2016 Calendar</i>	<i>Director of Missions</i>
	<i>Offering</i>	<i>Congregational Hymn</i>
	<i>Special Music</i>	
7:40	<i>Moderator's Message</i>	<i>David Chambers</i>
	<i>Adjourn/Benediction</i>	<i>Incoming Moderator</i>

**Sweetwater Baptist Association**  
**Proposed Budget for 2016-2017**

The Budget Committee recommends the Proposed Budget for 2016-2017 be adopted with the proposed changes, as follows.

- If funds are available, the *Working Agreements for Ministry Assistants* authorize yearly salary increases. The following are recommended:
  - Increase Administrative Assistant Salary by \$600.00 (2.5% increase)
  - Increase Receptionist Salary by \$600.00 (2.8% increase)
  - Increase Staff Social Security by \$92.00 (to reflect salary increases)
- Number of recipients receiving Newsletter has increased, and printing costs increased:
  - Increase Messengers by \$300.00
- In 2013, the following Associational Budget Items were cut by 10%. The proposed increases are restoring these line items to the amounts before the 2013 budget cuts.
  - Increase Local Evangelism/Outreach Trailer by \$150.00

- Increase Mission Development by \$150.00
- Increase Pastor Ministry by \$700.00 (Ministry to Pastor/Family, Events, Death, etc.)
- Increase Annual Meeting by \$125.00 (Annual Meeting Expenses)
- Increase Student Ministry/Youth by \$150.00 (Youth Events, Speakers)
- Increase Utilities by \$120.00 (Water/Trash-pickup, Electric)
- Increase Insurance (Office) by \$210.00 (Office Building, Disaster Relief Building, Workers Compensation Insurance)

I. ASSOCIATIONAL ADMINISTRATION	Current Budget for 2015-2016	Proposed Budget for 2016-2017	Increase Decrease
DOM Salary/Housing	53,812.00	53,812.00	
DOM Benefits	7,966.00	7,966.00	
DOM Business Expenses	11,240.00	11,240.00	
Administrative Assistant	24,000.00	24,600.00	+ 600.00
Adm. Asst Retirement Allowance	2,300.00	2,300.00	
Adm. Asst Travel Allowance	300.00	300.00	
Receptionist	21,230.00	21,830.00	+ 600.00
Receptionist Retirement Allowance	1,260.00	1,260.00	
Receptionist Travel Allowance	300.00	300.00	
Staff Social Security	4,210.00	4,302.00	+ 92.00
Postal Expenses	2,100.00	2,100.00	
Office Supplies	1,980.00	1,980.00	
Office Maintenance	1,800.00	1,800.00	
New Equipment	900.00	900.00	
Associational Calendars	700.00	700.00	
Messengers	1,800.00	2,100.00	+ 300.00
<b>II. ASSOCIATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS</b>			
Church Growth and Development	900.00	900.00	
Vacation Bible School	1,500.00	1,500.00	
Mens Ministry/Brotherhood	1,500.00	1,500.00	
Disaster Relief	900.00	900.00	
Royal Ambassadors	75.00	75.00	
Womens Ministry/WMU	300.00	300.00	
Baptist Young Women	100.00	100.00	
Acteens	100.00	100.00	
Girls In Action	100.00	100.00	
Mission Friends	100.00	100.00	
Evangelism	1,500.00	1,500.00	
Local Evangelism/Outreach Trailer	1,350.00	1,500.00	+ 150.00
Music	200.00	200.00	
Missions Development	1,350.00	1,500.00	+ 150.00
Marriage & Family Counseling Ministry	200.00	200.00	
Student Scholarship Fund/High School Seniors	2,000.00	2,000.00	
Pastor Ministry	1,600.00	2,300.00	+ 700.00
Media Center	200.00	200.00	
<b>III. ASSOCIATIONAL MEETINGS</b>			
Annual Meeting	675.00	800.00	+ 125.00
Student Ministry/Youth	750.00	900.00	+ 150.00
<b>IV. ASSOCIATIONAL OFFICE MAINTENANCE</b>			
General Maintenance	3,400.00	3,400.00	
Telephone/Internet	3,000.00	3,000.00	
Utilities	2,880.00	3,000.00	+ 120.00
Insurance (Office)	2,790.00	3,000.00	+ 210.00
<b>V. MISCELLANEOUS</b>			
General Miscellaneous	630.00	630.00	
Christmas Gift (DOM)	450.00	450.00	
Christmas Gift (AA)	400.00	400.00	
Christmas Gift (RC)	400.00	400.00	
TBC provides supplement for SBA per terms of Agreement.			
<b>Total Monthly \$782.00</b>			
<b>Annually \$9384.00</b>			
<b>TOTALS (2% increase)</b>	<b>\$165,248.00</b>	<b>\$168,445.00</b>	<b>\$3,197.00</b>

The proposed overall budget INCREASE is \$3,197.00 or a total budget of \$168,445.00. This is a proposed budget increase of 2%.

**Sweetwater Baptist Association**  
 696 Anderson Street  
 Madisonville, TN 37354

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 37354

**ASSOCIATIONAL OFFICERS**

<b>MODERATOR</b> David Chambers	<b>VICE MODERATOR</b> Dwight Torbett	<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 Co-Directors Kay James & Angie Johnson	Media Ministry Director Betty Wolfe
Men's Ministry Director	Music Director Phillip Johnson	Prayer Ministry Director Svitlana Self
RA Director Phil Roy	WMU Director Charlotte Hollinghead	Vacation Bible School Directors Brian 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 Eddie McDaniel, Chairman	Constitution Committee Kay James, Chairperson	Evangelism Committee Steven McDonald, Chairman
Finance Committee Barry Self, Chairman	Personnel Committee Diane Wall, Chairperson	Program Committee Lewis Jones, Chairman
Scholarship Committee Betty Wolfe, Chairperson	Trustees Carl "Buddy" Richesin, Chairman	Youth Council Casey King, Chairman

**NEWS FROM AROUND THE ASSOCIATION**

**Welcome New Pastors**

Mike Jacobs                      Big Creek  
 Carroll Hamilton                Rural Vale

**Director of Mission Visits:**

Beaty's Chapel, Old Sweetwater, Clifton, Fairview Tabernacle, Concord, Rocky Springs, Long Ridge, Ebenezer, Trinity, Oak Grove, DOM Retreat (Pigeon Forge), Shelton Grove, Macedonia, Miller's Chapel, Notchey Creek, New Macedonia, Vonore, Mt. Zion, Howard's Chapel, Sweetwater First, Madisonville First, Bethlehem, Lower Chilhowee, Conasauga, Lakeside, Island Creek, Big Creek, Cedar Fork, New Bethany, New Providence, Union Hall, Guatemala

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

Clifton, Concord, Hopewell Springs (Interim), Long Ridge, Madisonville First (Interim), Union Hall



*Check Out Our Website*

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

*Visit us on Facebook*

**Upcoming Events**

"The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon Him, to all that call upon Him in truth." --Psalm 145:18

- August 29 .....Church Growth and Development Conference, Madisonville First, 6:30 p.m.
- September 6 .....Seminary Extension Classes Begins @ SBA Office, 6:30 p.m.
- September 11-18..Week of Prayer for State Missions and Golden Offering
- September 12 .....Pastor/Family Picnic, Notchey Creek Pavilion, 6:30 p.m.
- September 15 .....Gideon Pastor's Banquet
- September 26 .....Missions Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- September 28 .....See You at the Pole
- October 17        Annual Meeting, Session 1 New Macedonia, 6:45 p.m.
- October 18        Annual Meeting, Session 2, Lakeside, 6:45 p.m.

**The Summit**

*Tennessee Baptist Convention*

**November 13-17, 2016**

Sevierville Convention Center, Sevierville

Annual Gathering of Tennessee Baptists

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



**SBA Pastor's Conference, Monday Mornings, 10:00 a.m.**

SBA Office Building, Madisonville, Everyone Welcome!

*Plan now to attend.....*

Sweetwater Baptist Association

**2017 Association Evangelism Conference**

**Monday, January 23, 2017, 6:45 p.m.**

**Dr. Johnny Hunt**

Conference Speaker

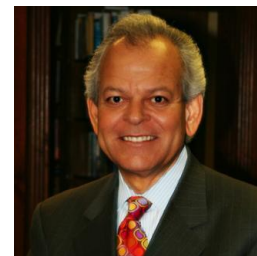
Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church, Woodstock, GA

Hosted by: **Fairview Baptist**

**Tabernacle Church**

Sweetwater, Tennessee

Theme: *Praise Him*, Psalm 117



**EVERYONE INVITED**

**FREE HEALTH FAIR**

**MADISONVILLE CHOTA**

August 31, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Call 442-2622 for more information



**East TN Healthcare**

**Birthday Cake Schedule**

<b>August</b>	411 Chapel	<b>September</b>	Mt. Zion
<b>October</b>	Notchey Creek	<b>November</b>	Bethlehem

Information for the next newsletter must be received by **November**

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