

The MESSENGER of the Sweetwater Baptist Association



"Churches on Mission Together"
Celebrating 196 years, 1830 – 2026

SWEET WATER
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Check Out Our Website

www.sweetwaterbaptistassociation.com

Visit us on Facebook

SBA Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday

8:30 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.



TONY RUTHERFORD

Director of Missions
tonyrutherford@bellsouth.net
423-337-1353 (cell)

SHERI STEPHENS

Administrative Assistant
sweetwaterassoci@bellsouth.net
423-442-6604 (office)

BECKY JONES

Ministry Assistant
becky.jones@bellsouth.net
423-442-6605 (office)

SVITLANA SELF

Resident Interpreter Volunteer

Volume 16

September/October, 2026

Number 82

Day of Prayer for Sweetwater Baptist Association Sunday, October 18



"having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind."
--Philippians 2:2

Sweetwater Baptist Association
Family of Churches Welcome

Pastor Sean Musgrove
wife Sarah & 3 boys

CEDAR VALLEY
Baptist Church

We are praying for this
pastor and congregation as
they share Christ
with their community.



SWEETWATER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

2026 Annual Meeting Monday, October 19

Hosted by: **Rocky Springs Baptist Church**
1011 Rocky Springs Road, Madisonville, TN



Theme: *Fan the Flames of Faith* Acts 2:1-13

- Associational Council Report, Video Presentation, 6:00 p.m.
- Business Session, 6:30 p.m. Worship Service to follow

One Day ... Two Sessions

See *2026 Annual Meeting Program* and
Proposed 2026-27 Budget included in this Newsletter

Gabe Brannon
Moderator

Rick Harris
Vice Moderator

Director of Missions

A church called a young minister to be their new pastor. It took him months to settle in, but things were progressing well.



Months passed and he began to introduce suggestions to the leadership team for consideration. However, rejection and cynical remarks of how the suggestions would not work or had previously failed proved to cloud the young pastor's heart. After repeated attempts to forge ahead with outreach and community ideas, the young pastor began to question his own ability of understanding God's will for him and the church. While under the conviction of the vision he had for the congregation, God moved on his heart. The evening the next leadership team arrived with usual laughter until the young minister paused at the end of his report. He stood and spoke clearly. *"Team, here is what God wants us to do, and the only thing you are to say is how it can be accomplished!"*

Proverbs 29:18 states, *"Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he."* I have a friend that has a saying when things are slow at church and appear to be declining rather than growing. He says their church is in an *"ensmallment campaign."*

While pastoring a church in North Carolina, a rapid change in the community became obvious. As drug use increased and pothouses moved in, the long-term residents moved to various locations. Finally, the congregation decided to sell the present building and relocate the church. The church purchased eleven acres of land and today a beautiful *House of Worship* is standing on the purchased property. Prayer was the key in unlocking the process in search for God's direction. Not one person left the church when the ultimate decision went forward, as 100% of the congregation relocated to the new facility. I learned that a properly cast vision can accomplish wonderful things. Allowing time for dissenters to capture what God can accomplish can aid in the success of the vision.

For years I have heard preachers say that *"we will never see people saved until we see them lost."* I happen to agree with that statement. Capturing the lostness of a person is a vision statement. We may be guilty of seeing all the people at the shopping mall or grocery store but fail to see the person. How about all the people at the ball game but are we seeing the person sitting near us? There is more lostness in the world today than ever before. More hurting, more sorrow, more need for the *Gospel of Jesus Christ!* God entrusted the precious *Gospel* to believers, church attenders, priesthood of the believers. We are responsible to see the person and not just the people. God has entrusted each of us with a story that we must share. Pastors, after you have shared your faith, train and encourage others to this wonderful experience. Let me remind you of Luke 15:7; *"I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance."* It is time to create a great commotion in heaven by sharing Jesus.

In October, the 2026 *Annual Meeting* of the Sweetwater Baptist Association will include a glimpse from the past as well as visions of the future. We hope that encouragement from reports of 2025-2026 will inspire a triumphant 2026-2027. In 2030, the Sweetwater Baptist Association will be two-hundred years old. We will endeavor to

celebrate that special occasion. Not because of the number of years, but because of the lives that have been touched around the world. The vision that captured our ancestors must not die under our watch, but the vision must adjust and become clear for the future.

I will see you at that *Meeting* in October or in the Air! --Tony

Associational News, Events, Information

CHURCH CLERKS: You should have received your *Annual Church Profile* (ACP) reports and *Messenger* cards for 2026 for completion. All information is due by **October 1st**.



Please remember that in accordance with the *Constitution and By-Laws of the Sweetwater Baptist Association*, each church (in good standing) is allowed 7 Messengers. **These are the only people allowed to participate in voting during the business session of the Annual Meeting.** Messenger names must be submitted on the *Messenger Card* and returned to the Sweetwater Baptist Association, by October 1st.

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.

ATTENTION CHURCH CLERKS:
**Completed Annual Church Profiles (ACP's) and
Messenger Cards are due October 1st**

PASTOR & FAMILY PICNIC: Late reminder; pastors, don't forget! Please contact the SBA Office at 442-6604 or email becky.jones@bellsouth.net to confirm a number in your family that will be attending the *Pastor/Family Picnic* on **Monday evening, September 21st 6:30 PM. Reservations must be received by September 10th for the barbeque picnic/meal.**



OCTOBER is Pastor Appreciation Month

Pastor Appreciation Month/Day is an excellent opportunity for churches to affirm love and appreciation to the men of God who are called and serve the Churches. Suggestions for celebrating **Pastor Appreciation Day** include presentation of appreciation certificate or plaque, gift certificate or monetary gift, reception following service, special prayer time for family, spiritual guidance and encouragement. We are so thankful for our pastors and their families, and their ministry to the churches and communities.

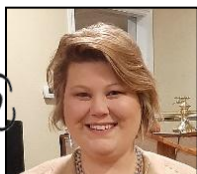
Sweetwater Baptist Association
Pastor's Conference
Monday, 10:00 AM
SBA Office Building, Madisonville

**SBA
WMU/Ladies
Ministry News**

Ladies, please mark your calendar for **Monday, November 2nd** and plan to attend the **Associational WMU/Ladies Ministry Meeting**. It will be

held at Bible Baptist Church in Tellico Plains. Our guest speaker for the evening will be a missionary from Nepal. We know you will be blessed as this missionary comes to share about mission work! We look forward to seeing you on **November 2nd** at Bible Baptist. Love in Christ, Rachel Thompson, Associational WMU/Ladies Ministry Director

Save
the
Date



WMU/LADIES MEETING
Monday, November 2, 7:00 PM
Bible Baptist Church, Tellico Plains

prayer for Tennessee and the *Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions*. (Information taken from www.tnbaptist.org; additional information available www.GoldenOffering.org)



Gideon Banquet
October 8, 2026, 6:30 pm
@ Hiwassee Bruderhof

Pastors: Watch for a letter in the mail!

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.



SAVE THE DATE!!!
MISSIONS
GET-TOGETHER
MARCH 12-13, 2027
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
COOKEVILLE, TN

MISSIONS GET-TOGETHER **March 12-13, 2027**
Cookeville, First Baptist Church

This is an exciting weekend to join women from across the state to worship, learn what God is doing in Tennessee and around the world, receive valuable information and resources to take back to your church, meet new friends, hear powerful testimonies from missionaries and ministry partners, open God's Word, and so much more! For additional information:...

<https://tnbaptist.org/event/missions-get-together/>

GOLDEN OFFERING: The *Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions* theme for 2026-2027 is *Together: We Pray. We Give. We Go*. The suggested date for the week of prayer for the GOTM is September 13-20 with Scripture reference from Philippians 1:27 "...striving TOGETHER AS ONE for the faith of the gospel."



Why do Tennessee Baptists participate in the *Golden Offering* for Tennessee Missions? Because we love Tennessee! For 125 years, Tennessee Baptists have set aside a special season of prayer and giving for state missions. Tennessee is a mission field! Today GOTM is meeting Tennessee for Christ.

- **WE PRAY:** and our unity begins on our knees, seeking God's heart for Tennessee and beyond.
- **WE GIVE:** and our generosity reflects Christ's sacrificial love, pooling our resources for Kingdom impact.
- **WE GO:** and our commitment moves us from comfort zones into harvest fields God has prepared.

As we join together and enter into this time of prayer for all that God is doing in Tennessee, pray for the unchurched and spiritually lost and the many needs across our state. As we mark the 125th anniversary of this mission emphasis, we celebrate God's faithfulness and renew our commitment to reach Tennessee for Christ. Please join other churches in being part of the season of

SBA Church Gifts October 1, 2025-August 25, 2026			
Church	Total	Church	Total
411 Chapel	1,500.00	New Bethany	3,396.22
Antioch	275.00	New Macedonia	2,200.00
Beaty's Chapel	200.00	New Providence	9,702.24
Bethlehem	9,900.00	New Zion	500.00
Bible	700.00	North Sweetwater	1,032.45
Big Creek	0.00	Notchey Creek	9,269.08
Calvary	1,454.51	Oak Grove	3,639.94
Cane Creek	1,100.00	Oakland	800.00
Cedar Fork	5,670.97	Old Pond Hill	0.00
Cedar Valley	10,514.76	Old Sweetwater	1,000.00
Christianburg	2,254.42	Paint Rock	1,210.00
Citico	2,272.11	Piney Grove	400.00
Clifton	275.00	Poplar Bluff	1,100.00
Community	1,819.14	Reed Springs	0.00
Compromise	550.00	Rocky Springs	4,200.00
Conasauga	3,300.00	Rural Vale	4,878.55
Concord	1,754.90	Shady Grove	1,000.00
Delano	2,774.99	Shelton Grove	2,508.08
Druid Hills	1,100.00	Shoal Creek	1,343.00
Ebenezer	658.00	South Madisonville	1,650.00
Fairview (Tellico)	0.00	Sweetwater First	3,850.00
Fairview Tabernacle	12,000.00	Tellico (Ballplay)	1,500.00
Fellowship	1,750.27	Tellico First	4,869.00
Glenlock	3,674.00	Tevis Springs	550.00
Gregory's Chapel	1,100.00	Towee Falls	1,650.00
Hopewell Springs	500.00	Trinity	0.00
Howard's Chapel	1,100.00	Union Grove	1,320.00
Island Creek	3,600.00	Union Hall	908.00
Lakeside	2,400.00	Union McMinn	4,400.00
Long Ridge	1,000.00	Unity	300.00
Lower Chilhowee	2,970.07	Upper Shady Grove	550.00
Macedonia	600.00	Vonore	18,819.66
Madisonville, First	4,583.37	Walnut Grove	1,750.00
Maple Springs	750.00	Watson Chapel	0.00
Miller's Chapel	1,100.00	Westside	300.00
Mt. Calvary	1,377.88	Williamsburg	370.52
Mt. Isabella	0.00	TBMB	6,260.00
Mt. Zion	7,561.85	MISC/Golden	13,398.30
Murray's	2,359.15	MISC/Interest	143.44
Total	\$207,268.87		

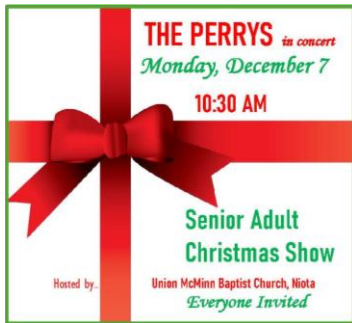
PASTORS AND WIVES CHRISTMAS BANQUET:

Pastors, please mark your calendars now and plan to attend the **Annual Pastors and Wives Christmas Banquet on Monday evening, December 7th**. The catered meal/banquet will be held at **Union McMinn Baptist Church in Niota at 6:00 PM**.



We are so excited that **THE PERRYS** will be our special musical guests for the evening. We know you will enjoy this group and will be blessed by their coming to share this year.

To help plan for the meal, reservations are required. Please call the SBA Office at 442-6604 or email the number attending the meal to becky.jones@bellsouth.net or sweetwaterassoci@bellsouth.net.



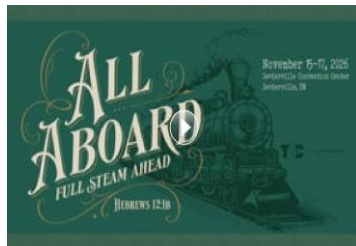
SENIOR ADULT CHRISTMAS SHOW:

We want to personally invite you to make plans now to see **The PERRYS!** The Sweetwater Baptist Association will feature this southern gospel singing group at our annual **Senior Adult Christmas Show**. This event will be held at **Union McMinn Baptist Church in Niota on Monday, December 7th at 10:30 AM**.

The **PERRYS** will sing well-known gospel classics, Christmas favorites, along with their own songs. You may want to consider making this a special day for the Senior Adults in your church. Enjoy the free *Christmas Show* as a church group, then schedule lunch at a local restaurant, or even spend the afternoon Christmas shopping!

Please announce in your church! This is a free event; and all ages are invited to what we know will be an outstanding *Christmas Show* on **Monday morning, December 7th**.

The Summit is the annual gathering of Tennessee Baptists for *Pastors Conference* and *Annual Meeting*. It will be held **November 15-18** in **Sevierville, Tennessee**. Online information and additional registration are available at www.tnbaptist.org

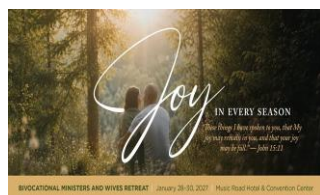


Tennessee Baptist Mission Board,
Bivocational Ministers & Wives Retreat
January 28-30, 2027

Phone: 615.373.2255

www.tnbaptist.org

An annual event for inspiration, fellowship, and encouragement in ministry. The \$275 cost includes registration, lodging, meals, breaks, and materials.



865.414. 3269
www.fairviewfamily.org

Individual, Couples & Family Services

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

September 14-19
Kefauver Park Expo Grounds
Prayer: 6:50 pm; Service: 7:00 pm
Patrick Roby, Dakota McLemore, Zachary Sitzler,
John Thomas McCallie

If any churches or singing groups are interested in being part of **Madisonville's Christmas on the Square Festival** (singing/caroling), please contact Misty Rapping. mistryrapping13@gmail.com

Ordinations, Anniversaries



On Sunday, August 9, 2026, **Shady Grove Baptist Church** ordained **Justin Wear** as a Deacon.

On Sunday, August 16, 2026, **Mt. Calvary Baptist Church** ordained **Jeb Best** as a Deacon.



Youth

YOUTH NEWS: 2027 SBA Youth Rally will be on **Saturday, March 13** at Notchey Creek Baptist Church. The guest speaker will be **Justin Worden** (Campus Pastor, Spirit City North Etowah) and music will be provided by the **Notchey Creek Youth**



Praise Team. We are happy to announce that **Bean & Bailey** will be returning to entertain our students with lots of fun and laughter. Make plans to come to the **2027 Youth Rally!**



If your church has used or unused **Sunday School Literature** that you'd like to donate, please contact **Ginger Lloyd** to make arrangements for donating.

Call or Text: 423-572-2700

(We are sorry, materials cannot be left at the Sweetwater Baptist Association office building due to limited space.)

ANNUAL MEETING, 2026:

We invite all elected Messengers to attend the upcoming 196th Annual Session of the Sweetwater Baptist Association. (Visitors are welcome to attend but cannot participate in business.)



The meeting will be held on **Monday evening, October 19th at Rocky Springs Baptist Church**. The Business Session will begin at 6:30 p.m. and the Worship Session will follow. Special Music will be presented by David (Moe) King, Jr. and our Moderator, Gabe Brannon, will preach the sermon during the Worship Session. We thank him and our Vice-Moderator, Rick Harris, for their outstanding leadership this past year.

We look forward to seeing you on Monday evening, October 19th at this important meeting of the Association.

Program for the 2026 Annual Meeting of the Sweetwater Baptist Association

(Program is subject to change.)

Theme: **Fan the Flames of Faith...Acts @Pentecost- - Acts 2:1-13**

Director of Missions Tony Rutherford	Vice Moderator Rick Harris	Moderator Gabe Brannon
---	-------------------------------	---------------------------

Celebrating 196 Years...1830-2026

Monday Evening, October 19, 2026 ROCKY SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH Madisonville, Tennessee

Business Session

6:00 *Associational Council Report*.....*Video Presentation*
6:30 *Greetings and Prayer*.....*Tony Rutherford*
Director of Missions; Member, Fairview Baptist Tabernacle Church
Video Message.....*Dr. Randy Davis*
Executive Director-Treasurer, Tennessee Baptist Mission Board
TBM Representative.....*Steve Pearson*
Harvest Field 4 Team Leader, Tennessee Baptist Mission Board
Memorial Report.....*Video Presentation*
Welcome and Prayer.....*Greg McCosh*
Pastor, Rocky Springs Baptist Church
Presentation of Gavel.....*Director of Missions*
Call to Order.....*Gabe Brannon*
Moderator; Pastor, Union-McMinn Baptist Church
Business Session.....*Moderator*
Constitution of Body.....*Becky Jones*
Clerk; Member, First Baptist Church, Madisonville
Appointment of Committee on Nominations.....*Moderator*
Election of Officers.....*Rick Harris*
Vice-Moderator; Pastor, South Madisonville Baptist Church
Committee on Nominations.....*Andy Franklin*
Member of Committee on Nominations; Pastor, Mt Zion Baptist Church
Treasurer's Report.....*Sheri Stephens*
Treasurer; Member, Notchey Creek Baptist Church

Presentation of Budget.....*Wendi Stakely*
Chairperson of Budget Committee; Member, Bethlehem Baptist Church
Director of Missions Report.....*Tony Rutherford*
Presentation of 2027 Calendar.....*Director of Missions*
Recommendation(s) and Presentation(s).....*Director of Missions*
Old Business.....*Vice-Moderator*
New Business.....*Vice-Moderator*
Adjourn.....*Vice-Moderator*

Monday Evening, October 19, 2026 ROCKY SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH Madisonville, Tennessee

Worship Session

Congregational Hymn.....*Rocky Springs Baptist Church*
Welcome and Prayer.....*Rick Harris*
Vice-Moderator; Pastor, South Madisonville Baptist Church
Special Music.....*David (Moe) King, Jr.*
Member; Union McMinn Baptist Church
Moderator's Message.....*Gabe Brannon*
Moderator; Pastor, Union McMinn Baptist Church
Benediction.....*Director of Missions*

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT:

The *Budget/Finance Committee* has reviewed all line items, and fine-tuned, modified and adjusted the amounts in each line item as needed to do ministry. Ministry is not being cut, we are just being wise stewards of ministry funds. The Sweetwater Baptist Association office staff does most of the promotion, planning, printing, etc. for the ministry activities in-house, which reduces overall costs. The *Budget and Finance Committee* recommends the following budget changes for the *Proposed 2026-2027 Budget* of the Sweetwater Baptist Association as follows:



- Increase line item for *Associational Calendars* by \$130.00 or a total of \$900.00
- Increase line item for *Messenger* by \$590.00 or a total of \$2900.00 (These items are printed outside the Associational Office, and printing costs have increased during the past year.)
- Increase line item for *Vacation Bible School* by \$300.00 or a total of \$1500.00 (Focus is on 5 theme kits which are purchased and then given away at the end of the VBS Showcase)
- Eliminate/decrease line item for *Children* by \$500.00 (This ministry will be included in current *Women/WMU/Ladies* and line item will remain for *WMU/Ladies/Children* with a total of \$1500.00.)
- Eliminate/decrease line item for *Local Evangelism/Outreach* by \$1400.00 (Current *Evangelism* line item will now be listed as *Evangelism/Outreach* with a total of \$5,000.00.)
- Eliminate/decrease line item for *Music* by \$200.00 (The cost for music/musicians is automatically included for an event in the line item sponsoring the meeting or event (i.e.: *Evangelism Rally (Evangelism Rally); Youth Rally (Student/Youth)*.)
- Increase DOM package by \$1500.00
- Increase Administrative Assistant package by \$3595.00
- Increase Ministry Assistant package by \$3117.00 (NOTE: These package increases can be distributed by each employee via *Salary/Retirement/Christmas* line items.)
- Increase Telephone/Internet/Website line item by \$500.00 or a total of \$3500.00
- Increase line item for Insurance (Office) by \$1500.00 or a total of \$8500.00 (This is due to office building package policy increase in premium on renewal.)

4 % overall increase;

Total Proposed Budget \$236,090.00

SWEETWATER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION Proposed Budget for 2026-2027	2025-26 Budget	Proposed 2026-27 Budget	Increase Decrease
I. ASSOCIATIONAL ADMINISTRATION			
DOM Package:			
DOM Salary/Housing	63,590.00	65,090.00	+1500.00
DOM Benefits	13,005.00	13,005.00	
DOM Business Expenses	10,377.00	10,377.00	
Administrative Assistant	29,639.00	33,234.00	+3,595.00
Adm Asst Retirement (Per Salary Reduction)	6,000.00	6,000.00	
Adm Asst Travel	309.00	309.00	
Ministry Assistant/Receptionist	27,261.00	30,378.00	+3,117.00
Ministry Assistant/Receptionist Retirement (Per Salary Reduction)	3,600.00	3,600.00	
Ministry Assistant/Receptionist Travel	309.00	309.00	
Staff Social Security (Employer)	5,658.00	5,658.00	
Postal Expenses	2,100.00	2,100.00	
Office Supplies	1,680.00	1,680.00	
Computer/Software	3,000.00	3,000.00	
Office Equipment/Copier Maintenance	1,800.00	1,800.00	
New Equipment (including Computers)	4,000.00	4,000.00	
Associational Calendars	770.00	900.00	+130.00
Messengers	2,310.00	2,900.00	+590.00
II. ASSOCIATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS			
Church Growth & Development	850.00	850.00	
Vacation Bible School	1,200.00	1,500.00	+300.00
Mens Ministry	500.00	500.00	
Disaster Relief	500.00	500.00	
WMU/Womens/WMU/Ladies/Children	1,500.00	1,500.00	
Children	500.00	0.00	-500.00
Biblical Studies	500.00	500.00	
Evangelism/Outreach	5,000.00	5,000.00	
Local Evangelism/Outreach	1,400.00	0.00	-1,400.00
Music	200.00	0.00	-200.00
Mission Development	1,500.00	1,500.00	
Student Scholarship (High School Seniors)	2,000.00	2,000.00	
Senior Adult	1,500.00	1,500.00	
Pastor Ministry	3,000.00	3,000.00	
Media Center	200.00	200.00	
Student/Youth	5,000.00	5,000.00	
III. ASSOCIATIONAL MEETING			
Annual Meeting	900.00	900.00	
IV. ASSOCIATIONAL OFFICE MAINTENANCE			
Building Maintenance	3,000.00	3,000.00	
General Maintenance	3,400.00	3,400.00	
Telephone/Internet/Website	3,000.00	3,500.00	+500.00
Utilities	3,750.00	3,750.00	
Insurance (Office)	7,000.00	8,500.00	+1500.00
V. MISCELLANEOUS			
General Miscellaneous	650.00	650.00	
Christmas Gift (DOM)	1,000.00	1,000.00	
Christmas Gift (AA)	1,000.00	1,000.00	
Christmas Gift (RC)	1,000.00	1,000.00	
Staff Bonus 5-year	1,500.00	1,500.00	
The Tennessee Baptist Convention provides TBC Supplement for the Sweetwater Baptist Association per terms of Covenant Agreement. Total Monthly \$625.00/Annually \$7500.00			
TOTALS (4% overall increase)	\$226,958.00	\$236,090.00	+9,132.00

+Increase -Decrease ***New Item

Church News, Events, Information



EBENEZER (Ballplay): *Revival* services will be October 4-9. Sunday Night at 6:00 pm; Weeknights at 7:00 pm.

Evangelists will be Jonathan Hughes, Chad Edwards and Drew Hibbitts. *Special Singers:* Sunday, Recognized; Monday, McKamey Legacy; Tuesday, The Lail Family; Wednesday, The Agee Family; Thursday, The Ware Family; Friday, True Grace.



GREGORY'S CHAPEL: *Fishers of Men* will be singing at our

Homecoming on September 20, 10:30 am. *Old-Timers Day* is October 18, 11:00 am.



LAKESIDE: Our *Homecoming* is Sunday, September 13, beginning

at 10:30 am. Former Pastor, Rev. Joe Watson will be preaching, and special music will be Adam and Kristi Gregory. Lunch will be served after service and there will be no PM service.



LONG RIDGE: *Revival* services will be September 13-16. Sunday Night at 6:00 pm, Weeknights at 6:30 pm. Special

Singing Nightly. Evangelists will be Rev. Sean Patton and Rev. Steve Strickland.



MAPLE SPRINGS: *Revival* begins

September 6. Prayer Meeting at 6:30 pm, Service at 7:00 pm. Preachers will be Denny Perrine and Dusty Perrine. Special Singing Nightly.

MT. ZION:

- *Widows Tea Party*, September 20, After AM Service

- *Trunk or Treat*, October 28 (tentatively)

- *Community Hallelujah Meeting*, November 24



NEW PROVIDENCE: *The New*

Providence Mission Center provides clothing, food, hygiene items and more.

The *Mission Center* is located in the old church building at 451 *New Providence Rd, Tellico Plains*. For more information

or to donate, contact 423-519-6899, 423-337-1697, 423-295-4873.



OLD POND HILL: *Friends & Family Day*

will be September 27 at 10:45 am. *The Good News Singers* will be singing and a meal will be enjoyed after service.

NEW BETHANY: Our website is newbethanybaptistsweetwater.com.

Our Facebook page is New Bethany Missionary Baptist Church. We broadcast our services on our website, Facebook and YouTube. *Any changes to the following events will be posted on Facebook.*



Our ongoing events are:

- **Men's Night**, first Thursday of the month, 6 pm
- **WMU**, first Monday of the month, 6 pm
- **Truth & Light Recovery**, Saturdays, 6 pm (Meal, 5:30)
- **Mercy's Table Food Pantry**, fourth Wednesday of the month, 5 pm (Meal, 5:30)

Other Upcoming Events:

- **Sweetwater's Historic Halloween**
- **Thanksgiving Community Dinner**, Nov 19, 5 to 7 pm
- **Old-Fashioned Christmas**, December 6, 11 am
- **Christmas Cantata**, December 20, 11 am

NOTCHEY CREEK:

Triumphant Quartet will be singing on September 27, at both our morning services (8:30 AM and 10:45 AM).



Other Upcoming Events:

- **Second Harvest**, 4th Thursday of each month
- **Triumphant Quartet, Preaching & Song Service** 8:30 am & **Concert** 10:45 AM, September 27
- **173rd Anniversary Harvest Celebration**, 8:30 & 10:45 AM, October 4:
- **Veterans Celebration**, (Time TBD), November 11
- **Operation Christmas Child Drop Location**, (see website for drop time schedule), November 16-23
- **Christmas Drama**, 6 PM, December 13
- **Phillips, Craig & Dean Concert** 7 PM, Dec. 16:



OAK GROVE: **Revival** services will be September 28 – October 2, 7:00 pm each night. Prayer Room will be at 6:45 pm. Evangelist will be Dr. Shane Johnston. Special Singing Nightly.



OLD SWEETWATER:

- **Grandparents Day (Old Timers Day)**, September 13
- **Lakeside Singers**, September 27, AM Service
- **Eubanks Family Singers**, October 11, AM Service
- **Pastor Appreciation Day**, October 18

POPLAR BLUFF:

Each Saturday in September, we are hosting a **Preacher/Pastor Development Workshop** (9am-11am). See photo for topics and



speakers.

Please join Hosts, Roman Hamilton and Paul Chapman on a weekly **podcast** called **"Truth Revival."** New episodes are released every Tuesday at 10:00 am.



RURAL VALE: **The Resurrection Quartet** (all former Inspirations) will be singing at Rural Vale on Saturday September 26, at 6:00 pm.



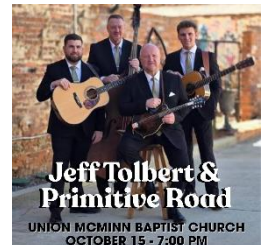
SOUTH MADISONVILLE: Revival services will be September 8-13; Rev. Tommy Self and Rev. Dwayne "Bugsy" Leming will be preaching.



TEVIS SPRINGS: **Revival** services will be October 18-23, Sunday Night at 6:00 pm, Weeknights at 7:00 pm. Prayer Room will be 30 minutes prior to service. Rev. Tommy Self and Rev. Dwayne "Bugsy" Leming will be preaching.

UNION MCMINN:

- **Ladies Tea**, September 12
- **Operation Christmas Child Offering**, September 13
- **Old Timer's Day/Lunch**, September 20
- **Pastor Appreciation Day**, October 11
- **Gideon Speaker**, October 18
- **Jeff Tolbert and Primitive Road**, October 15, 7PM



UPPER SHADY GROVE: Our 1-Day Vacation Bible School theme was "Yesterday, Today and Forever". Pastor Noah Russell preached "The Forever" and **5 young people were saved**. We thank God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit for saving these souls.



VONORE:

Car Show
September 26
9am-2pm



Sweetwater Baptist Association

696 Anderson Street
Madisonville, TN 37354

Return Service Requested

PRST STD
US Postage
PAID
Permit 11 NP
Madisonville, TN
37354

ASSOCIATIONAL OFFICERS

MODERATOR
Gabe Brannon

VICE MODERATOR
Rick Harris

Associational Council
Officers & Committee Chairmen

Committee on Nominations
Steve Strickland, Chairman

Budget/Finance Committee
Wendi Stakely, Chairperson

Evangelism Director
Shane Johnston

Mission Committee
Danny Lingerfelt, Chairman

Personnel Committee
Donita Moore, Chairperson

Trustees
Albert Graser, Chairman

Music Director
Phillip Johnson

WMU/Ladies Director
Rachel Thompson

NEWS FROM AROUND THE ASSOCIATION

Welcome New Pastors:

Sean Musgrove.....Cedar Valley

Director of Mission Visits/Miscellaneous:

Long Ridge; Glenlock; Conasauga; Hopewell Springs; Vonore; Beaty's Chapel (*Ordination*); Vonore; Mt Zion (*Revival*); Ebenezer; Lower Chilhowee; Gregory's Chapel; *SBA Nominating Committee Meeting*, *SBA Finance Committee Meeting*; Maple Springs; Murray's; Macedonia; North Sweetwater; Miller's Chapel; *Old Fashioned Prayer Meeting*; Shady Grove; New Zion; New Macedonia; Shady Grove, (*Ordination*); Old Pond Hill; Paint Rock; Madisonville First; Mt Calvary; *TBMB Vision Trip* Cincinnati, Cleveland, Pittsburg; New Providence; New Bethany, Pastor Otto; *Fan the Flames of Revival*; Island Creek; Poplar Bluff Pastor Otto; Oakland; Old Sweetwater, Pastor Otto; Notchey Creek (*Revival*)

VBS: Trinity; Mt Calvary; Notchey Creek; Long Ridge; Glenlock

Please pray for our churches:

All SBA Churches have Pastors at time of *Newsletter* printing!



Upcoming Events

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." --Psalm 133:1

Sept 13-20 *Week of Prayer for State Missions and Golden Offering*

Sept 21 *Pastor/Family Picnic*, Notchey Creek Pavilion, 6:30 PM

Sept 23 *See You at the Pole*

Sept 28 *Mission Committee Meeting*, SBA Office, 6:30 PM

Oct 1 ACP Reports & Messenger Cards Due

Oct 18 *Day of Prayer* for Sweetwater Baptist Association

Oct 19 *SBA Annual Meeting*, Rocky Springs, 6:30 PM Business Session, Worship Service to follow

Nov 2 *WMU/Ladies Meeting*, Bible Baptist, Tellico Plains, 7:00 PM

Nov 15-18*TBMB Annual Meeting*, Sevierville Convention Center

(Meetings and events subject to change)



WMU/Ladies Group

Please check the Activities Director at 442-3990 regarding entrance at facility.

Madisonville Health & Rehab — Nursing Home Birthday Cake Schedule

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



SBA Office Hours Monday-Thursday 8:30 AM — 4:00 PM

The SBA Office will be closed November 25-29 for the Thanksgiving holidays. We thank you for this time to spend with family and friends. —Associational Staff

Sweetwater Baptist Association

in conjunction with

Notchey Creek Baptist Church presents



EAST TENNESSEE

Ministry Summit

(Conference for all Church Members & Leaders)

& Evangelism Rally

(Worship, Preaching & Singing)

Hosted by **Notchey Creek Baptist Church**
Madisonville, TN

(Watch for further details!)

February 27, 2027

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

Next issue of *The Messenger* will be November/December.

Please Note: Photographs are taken at all associational meetings and events, and will be used by the Association in newsletters, on website or social media sites.