

THE MESSENGER of the Sweetwater Baptist Association

"Seventy-three Churches on Mission Together"
Celebrating 183 years, 1830 – 2013

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Check Out Our Website: www.sweetwaterbaptistassociation.com

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Volume 2

November/December, 2012

Number 9

Sweetwater Baptist Association

Report from Annual Meeting, 2012

- Welcome petitioning churches, Concord Baptist Church and Old Pond Hill Baptist Church, under watch-care, pending vote of Messengers at 2013 Annual Meeting
- Partnership continues with Great River Association, Iowa to help strengthen church to church relationships, and provide short-term mission volunteer/ministry teams
- Partnership continues with Gaétan Alcégairé and the FYSCO in Haiti for the dual purpose of (a) construction of church/school building and (b) purchase of land; while the churches of the Sweetwater Baptist Association continue to support the children at the orphanage in Haiti by providing funds for food, clothing and shelter

Churches



Iowa



Haiti

SWEETWATER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Pastor and Wife Christmas Banquet

Friday, December 7, 2012, 6:30 p.m.

Vonore Baptist Church, Family Life Center, Vonore

Please call the SBA Office at 442-6604 or email your reservation to
becky.jones@bellsouth.net or sweetwaterassoci@bellsouth.net



Sweetwater Baptist Association

Associational

Evangelism Conference

Monday, January 21, 2013

6:45 p.m.

Conference Speaker

Dr. Bobby H. Welch

Associate Executive Director/Church Relations
Tennessee Baptist Convention

Evening Session will be held at

Notchey Creek

Baptist Church

Madisonville, Tennessee



EVERYONE INVITED

MORE LIFE RALLY

5:30 p.m.

Meal and Rally for pastors and their wives

(Please call the SBA Office at 442-6604 or email

sweetwaterassoci@bellsouth.net or

becky.jones@bellsouth.net for early session meal and rally reservations)

Notchey Creek Baptist Church, Fellowship Hall

MORE LIFE is "tailor made in Tennessee by Tennesseans for Tennesseans". The purpose of MORE LIFE is to equip and empower all sizes of churches in the Tennessee Baptist Convention to do more discipleship and evangelism which is reflected by MORE BAPTISMS resulting from LIVES transformed and committed and churches empowered and healthy.

Vacation Bible School

2013 Schedule of Events

- February 26: VBS Preview Clinic
- March 19: VBS Clinic
(Watch for further details!)



LifeWay's 2013 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.



Officers for the Sweetwater Baptist Association (left to right)

Mike Williams (2011-12 Moderator, Pastor, Island Creek Baptist Church)
Mike Deland (2012-13 Moderator, Pastor, Walnut Grove Baptist Church)
Carroll Hamilton (2012-13 Vice-Moderator, Pastor, Long Ridge Baptist Church)
Tony Rutherford, Director of Missions

Director of Missions

It was tears that stated “stop this madness.” A little girl was caught on camera as she broke into tears when another political ad interrupted her favorite program. Her reaction voiced many heartfelt attitudes toward the political climate in America. True believers know it is neither the Democrats nor the Republicans that have the answer to the problems our nation faces. Only in Christ Jesus will we rediscover the remedy of our brokenness.



Of course, there are some that feel our country is not broken. However, from a minister's perspective, when there are more gun shots than prayers in the school system, there is a problem. When children disappear while riding a bicycle to the park, and teenagers are bullied to the point of suicide, something is wrong. When adults captivate the news media because of lurid scandals, and homes lie in ruin, we've past the point of a wake-up call.

We are reminded in the Scriptures it is God who establishes kings and kingdoms. He also holds those kingdoms to His purpose. The God who brings a king to the throne has the authority to remove the ruler as He wishes. William and Gloria Gaither wrote these words, “*Kings and kingdoms will all pass away, but there's something about that name.*” The name they refer to is Jesus. It is the name of Jesus that makes the evil of this world tremble, for the Evil One knows that only in the name of Christ is he defeated.

Christ has given the power of victory into the hands of His Church. We are entering into a season of hope and joy. This is a time to recall that the ultimate prize does not lie in the arms of humanity, but in the compassion and grace of our Heavenly Father. It is in His actions that we rely on for our salvation. The One who called Himself the “Son of Man” promised to never leave or forsake us, and by His actions on the cross demonstrated His love for all.

There are reasons to be thankful, occasions to celebrate, dreams to be realized, and promises to be trusted. The Psalmist penned: “*Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before His presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord is God: it is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise: be thankful unto Him, and bless His name. For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting; and His truth endureth to all generations.*” (Ps. 100 KJV)

The season of thanksgiving draws us near the celebration of Christmas. The angels introduced the birth of Jesus to the shepherd with shouts of “fear not” and tidings of “great joy,” while wise men traveled a great distance bearing gifts for a new born king. This was not just any king. He was and is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. As we worship Him this special time of year “may the madness stop,” and our tears be of joy. Merry Christmas!

-- Tony Rutherford

HOPE FOR HAITI: We are now entering our second year of the 5-year partnership with Pastor Gaétan Alcègaire and the orphanage, Foundation Yaveh Shamma for the Children Orphan in Haiti. During the past year, many of the Churches of our Association have responded in a great way to the needs in Haiti. Volunteers have participated in short-term mission projects to help build the church/school building and financial assistance is being provided for the 32 orphan children.

HOPE FOR HAITI

The orphanage is operated by Baptist Pastor Gaétan Alcègaire. He has transformed his family home into an orphanage/house for the children. In order to care for each child, \$80.00 per month is needed to provide food, clothing, shelter and schooling. If your church, Sunday School class, WMU group cannot provide the full cost of \$80.00 per month to support a child, you can join with others who are providing partial support. Please pray how God would lead you to be part of this ministry.



HAITI MISSION

PROJECT: Volunteers are URGENTLY needed to serve on a construction team for an upcoming Haiti mission project. The team will continue the work at the church/school building that is being constructed for Pastor Gaétan Alcègaire and the Foundation Yaveh Shamma for the Children Orphan. Block layers, and masonry workers, who can manually mix concrete, are especially needed for this phase of work. Tentative dates for the projects are February 16-23.



Volunteers should check with their local physicians to be sure that all required immunizations (such as Hepatitis A, B, C, Tetanus, Rabies, etc.) are up to date. It may be necessary for you to go to the Knox County Health Department for typhoid injections and/or malaria pills. The Knox County Health Department does require scheduled appointments and can be reached at 865-215-5000.

The approximate cost for the mission project is \$1400.00. A completed application and deposit should be submitted to the Sweetwater Baptist Association by January 10, 2013. You must have a valid passport to serve on the mission team.

ASSOCIATIONAL EVANGELISM CONFERENCE, 2013:

We want to personally invite you to attend our 2013 Sweetwater Baptist Association Evangelism Conference. The meeting will be held on **Monday, January 21st**. The conference will be hosted by the **Notchey Creek Baptist Church** in Madisonville, and will begin at **6:45 p.m.**



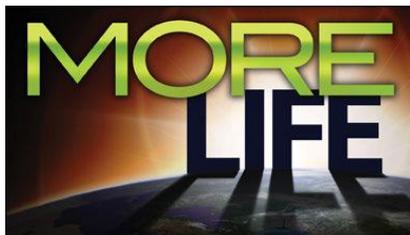
We are extremely excited about our conference this year. Our conference speaker is Dr. Bobby H. Welch. Dr. Welch is currently serving as Associate Executive Director/Church Relations for the Tennessee Baptist Convention. Dr. Welch is the Co-Founder/Originator of *FAITH Evangelism through the Sunday School Strategy* which is now in 4 languages in 14 countries with over 500,000 trained. He was elected President of the Southern Baptist Convention in 2004 and served 2 terms, 2004-2006. Dr. Welch was Pastor of First Baptist Church of Norco, Louisiana, Associate Pastor, Park Avenue Baptist in Nashville and Pastor of First Baptist Church of Daytona Beach for 32 years. He has served in numerous places of leadership and service throughout the Southern Baptist Convention. It has been said that "Welch speaks...Experience, Encouragement, Heart, Vision, Passion, Leadership, Soul, and Faith!" We know you will be blessed by his coming.

Again this year, the Associational Choir will bring our special music. We invite members of your Church Choir to be part of the Associational Choir to lift up the name of Jesus in song and praise. Our Associational Choir Director, Brother Phillip Johnson is already working on the special music for the conference. Just as soon as possible, we will have music "cd's" available at the Associational Office. Please stop by the SBA Office to pick up a copy of the music listening "cd" and feel free to make additional copies.

This Evangelism Conference will encourage you as a pastor and/or leader in your church, and help us keep our focus on what Jesus has called us to do. No matter what we do, there is nothing more important than evangelism. Please encourage your church leaders and members to attend the Evangelism Conference. You will not want to miss this great evening of worship. Mark your calendars for **Monday evening, January 21st**.

SPECIAL JUST FOR OUR PASTORS AND THEIR WIVES....

In addition to speaking at the Evangelism Conference, Dr. Bobby Welch will be coming at 5:30 p.m. on January 21st to share with pastors and their wives during a **More Life Rally**.



More Life is an approach for churches to strengthen, unify and mobilize in discipleship and evangelism while winning the lost and growing their churches. A meal will be provided. Therefore, reservations will be required. Please call the SBA Office at 442-6604 or email your reservation request to becky.jones@bellsouth.net or sweetwaterassoci@bellsouth.net by January 7th.

REPORT FROM ANNUAL MEETING, 2012:

The 2012 sessions of the Annual Meeting of the Sweetwater Baptist Association are now behind us. According to all reports, this was a great time, as we joined together to *Celebrate Redemption*.



We want to thank the more than 300+ Pastors, Messengers and visitors that were in attendance for the sessions. We want to thank our host churches, Glenlock Baptist Church and Bethlehem Baptist Church. We want to thank Brother Phillip Johnson and the Associational Choir, as well as Mrs. Jo Stakely and The Lingerfels for providing the special music for the sessions. We also want to thank Dr. Lon Shoopman for sharing the mission message. A special thank you also to our Moderator Mike Williams for his outstanding leadership this past year, and for sharing the Moderator's Message for the final session.

During the Business Session, a budget with an overall decrease of \$1730.00 was approved by the Messengers. Carroll Hamilton (Pastor of Long Ridge Baptist Church) was elected as Vice-Moderator for 2012-13. Mike DeLand (Pastor of Walnut Grove Baptist Church) will serve as Moderator for 2012-13.



The Minutes of the 2012 Annual Meeting were dedicated in memory of William Roy (Bill) Bradley, former Youth Pastor, New Bethany Baptist Church. A framed plaque was presented to his wife, Mrs. Sharmin Bradley.



Missions Committee Chairman, Steven McDonald reported (for information only) that (1) Concord Baptist Church (Pastor Jimmy Jackson) and Old Pond Hill Baptist Church (Pastor Myrl K. Vaughn) had petitioned the Executive Board in April, 2012, and these 2 churches were welcomed and placed under the watch-care for one-year pending vote of the Messengers at the 2013 Annual Meeting in accordance with the Procedures for Petitioning the SBA (2) pastors/churches were encouraged to continue partnership projects/short-term mission work in Iowa to strengthen church relationships (3) churches/pastors were urged to continue to be part of partnership with Gaétan Alcégairre and the FYSCO orphanage project in Haiti.

We want to thank the Program Committee, and everyone on the program that helped to make this year's Annual Meeting a blessed time of worship. Please pray for the Program Committee as they plan and prepare for Annual Meeting, 2013.



YOUTH COMMITTEE: Youth Reach 2013 will be held on July 19-20 at the Smoky Mountain Convention Center in Pigeon Forge. Our conference speaker will be Rev. Scott Smith. Some of you will remember that Scott served as our conference speaker several years ago, and is a fantastic youth speaker. "Life Wide Open" will be providing our music again next year. This band has become a favorite of our students and we are

pleased they were available to come back. We are very excited to share with you that in 2013, we have scheduled one of the nation's top Christian comedian duos to perform at both sessions of the Youth Reach conference. "Bean and Bailey" have worked as professional Christian comedians for over 10 years and have traveled all over the world performing. They were also contestants on the first season of *America's Got Talent*. Both of these young men graduated from Carson-Newman College and love serving the Lord through comedy. You can check out their website at www.beanandbailey.com. Registration packets will be mailed to each youth leader after the first of the year. We hope that you will make plans to bring your students to Youth Reach in 2013.

THE UPPER ROOM CHRISTIAN COUNSELING CENTER:

Acts 2 tells about a group of people gathered together in an upper room. These people were scared, confused, hopeless, and looking for direction. But then, the Holy



Spirit came and these broken people were filled with God's love, power, and direction. Their lives were forever changed.

The UPPER Room Christian Counseling Center derives its name from this story in Acts 2. The goal of this ministry is for the same

Services Include:

- Premarital & Marriage Counseling
- Children, Teens, & Family Counseling
- Divorce & Grief Recovery
- Counseling for Addictions, Co-dependency, Anger, Finances, & Self-worth

change to happen in people's lives today.

If you or your family is also feeling despair, confusion, or fear, then call for help today. God desires to give each of us hope and help. To speak to a counselor or to get more information, call 865-414-3269 or visit www.upperroomchristiancounseling.net



Have you ever heard of Rett Syndrome? I had not until about 2 months

Sweetwater Baptist Association **Womens Missionary Union**

ago, when Josh and Sally Teague's beautiful baby girl, Carly, was diagnosed with it. Sally shared from her heart about Carly and Rett Syndrome at the November

WMU Quarterly Meeting at 411 Chapel. You can keep up with Carly and Rett on her facebook page [Carly's Climb 2 Reverse Rett](#).

What do you get when you try to line up about 10 kids holding signs? A group of TeamKids showing what they are thankful for. 411 TeamKids, you did great!! I had asked 4 young ladies from my church to come to "sign" to one of their songs. They not only did a fantastic job, but the song "I Am" is so powerful. Thanks to everyone for helping make this a special meeting.



Well, it's that time of year again. Rush..rush..hurry..hurry..wait in line...can't get pulled out on the road. It can get very trying and stressful. BUT, let's not get caught up in all of the shopping for just the perfect gift, all the decorating and partying that we forget the real reason. "Giving thanks always for all things unto GOD" "...for unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord."



I hope everyone has a BLESSED THANKSGIVING and MERRY CHRISTMAS!!

Remember when it's your time to provide a birthday cake for East Tennessee Health Care. November: Bethlehem, and December: New Bethany. (You will also find these dates listed on the Associational Calendar of Events.) You may also contact the Sweetwater Baptist Association Office at 442-6604 or East Tennessee Health Care at 442-3990 for more information.



Check www.sweetwaterbaptistassociation.com and www.tnwmu.org for helpful information. Check out our Facebook page Sweetwater Baptist Association WMU. Remember....missions will put a smile on your face...Audie...Associational WMU Director, Audrey J. Stephens

LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING FOR INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS:

If you are a follower of Jesus, you are part of the task to fulfill the Great Commission. We are to be His heart, His hands and His voice to take the Gospel everywhere, all the way to the ends of the earth.



For the first time in history, we can identify the people groups that remain untouched by the Gospel. We can get there in our generation! But that last mile on the journey will be the hardest. It will take all of us working together, every Great Commission partner, to see that all people groups hear the saving message of Jesus Christ. Be His heart, hands and voice. All offerings received for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering are used to support Southern Baptist missionaries as they share the Gospel around the world. The suggested date for the Week of Prayer for International Missions and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is December 2-8.

2012 SPORTSMEN'S DAY: Our annual Sportsmen's Day was held at Sequoyah Birthplace Museum in Vonore on Saturday, October 20th. Many people came out to enjoy the day. We had something for everyone, including 4-wheeler rides, archery courses, skeet shooting, fly-fishing, bass fishing lessons and more. We were honored to have several professional fishermen as our guest speakers.



Challenging messages were presented throughout the day, and many professions of faith were made. We thank God for His saving grace and for our new brothers and sisters in Christ.

Many people worked tirelessly to make this event possible and we thank each of them for all their dedication to this event. Special thanks go to Pastor Mike Williams and Island Creek Baptist Church and Pastor Matthew Johnson and New Bethany Baptist Church for all the work they put into the day. We look forward to next year's Sportsmen's Day and hope to see even more people come out. --Clint Brackett, Associational Men's Ministry Co-Director



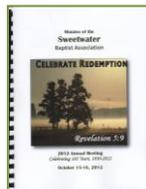
PASTOR AND WIFE CHRISTMAS BANQUET:

The annual Pastor and Wives Christmas Banquet will be held on Friday evening, December 7th 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 is extended to include seminary extension students, retired pastors and the associational officers, as well as their spouses.



In order to adequately prepare for the correct number in attendance, reservations are required. Please call the SBA Office at 442-6604 or email your number attending to becky.jones@bellsouth.net or sweetwaterassoci@bellsouth.net by November 26th.

ATTENTION CHURCH CLERKS: This is just a reminder that the 2012 Minutes of the 182nd Annual Meeting of the Sweetwater Baptist Association are back from the printers and are available in our office. Therefore, if your church ordered the 2012 SBA Minutes, please stop by the SBA Office to pick up the copies for your church.



Extra copies of the Minutes are available at \$6.00 per printed copy or \$1.00 each for computer disc. The Minutes of the 182nd Annual Meeting will also be available on our website at www.sweetwaterbaptistassociation.com

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL SAMPLER KITS: We have just received exciting news that LifeWay's 2013 VBS Sampler Kits, *Colossal Coaster World: Facing Fear, Trusting God* will be available in our office mid-December. Please call the SBA Office at 442-6604 to reserve your kit.



In January, we will have all materials, t-shirts, supplies and resources available at the Sweetwater Baptist Association office.

We will be happy to help you with your 2013 order for materials and supplies, or even a team of VBS workers. We are praying for our churches and for your Vacation Bible Schools.

2013 HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS:

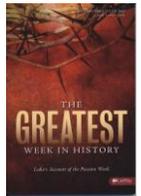
By now, pastors and youth leaders for each of our churches should have received a packet of information regarding the Sweetwater Baptist Association, High School Scholarship program.



Scholarship applications must be completed and returned to the Association Office by **March 1st**.

Please help us get this word out to our students by announcing this to your church. Additional copies of the applications are available at the Associational Office. For a limited time, the application will be available on our website at www.sweetwaterbaptistassociation.com

2013 JANUARY BIBLE STUDY: 2013 January Bible Study materials are available at the Sweetwater Baptist Association Office. The theme for the 2013 study is *The Greatest Week In History...Luke's Account of the Passion Week*.



Please call the SBA Office at 442-6604 or email becky.jones@bellsouth.net or sweetwaterassoci@bellsouth.net to reserve a copy of the materials for your church. The cost for the Leader Guide (includes CD-ROM) is \$12.95 each, and the Learner Guide is \$6.95 each.



CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE: We continue to make changes and additions to our associational website. Please check-out our updated website for much needed information. The address is www.sweetwaterbaptistassociation.com.

THE MESSENGER: Every church in our Association has the opportunity to report information for their church in our newsletter. This information is received and printed in our newsletter, on a first-come, first-served basis. Information must be received in our office by the 10th of the month in order to appear in the newsletter. *The Messenger* is printed during the months of January, March, May, July, September and November.



We want to encourage all of our churches to appoint someone from your church to be responsible for submitting your church news to the Association Office in order that we can hear from all of our churches.

THE MESSENGER BY EMAIL: Would you like to receive our newsletter, *The Messenger* through your computer inbox rather than your mailbox? If so, please send your email address to becky.jones@bellsouth.net in order for it to be added to our automatic mail-out list or you can call our office at 442-6604 and let us know. We feel this is a good way to be good stewards, since this will reduce costs in postage and printing.



SEMINARY EXTENSION CLASS: A new Seminary Extension Class will begin on January 8th at the Sweetwater Baptist Association Office. The classes will continue on Tuesday evenings for 12 weeks. The study will be *I, II, III John*. The cost for credit is \$50.00 plus books, and the cost for audit of the class is \$20.00 (no books). Please register for the class by December 17th. You can register by calling 423-442-6604 or by emailing becky.jones@bellsouth.net or sweetwaterassoci@bellsouth.net



Church Conflict Seminar
 February 25, 2013, 7:00 p.m.
 Hosted by First Baptist Church, Sweetwater
 Conference Leader: Dr. Bill Northcott

The Harvest Conference

EVANGELISM DISCIPLESHIP 1-5-1

Sweetwater Baptist Association Office

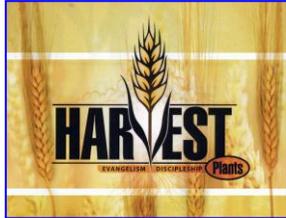
Monday evening, December 10th, 7:00 p.m.

Conference Leader: Steve H. Pearson

Watch for further details!

THE HARVEST CONFERENCE:

All Pastors, outreach directors and/or interested mission development coordinators are invited to attend this evangelistic training conference. *The Harvest* Conference will be held on Monday evening, December 10th at 7:00 p.m. at the Sweetwater Baptist Association office building in Madisonville. The conference will be led by Steven Pearson, Evangelism Department, TBC. The Harvest will equip leaders to share the Gospel with small start-up groups or branches gathering for adult Bible Study in neighborhoods, or public places. The purpose of *The Harvest* is to win, baptize, and multiply.



FOSTER PARENTS

NEEDED: Youth Villages in Knoxville is in need of Foster Parents in this area. They asked that we post the following announcement:

Did you know that there are approximately 8,000 Tennessee children in foster care? Children in foster care need someone to help them through the hard times, assist them in making the right decisions, and be a consistent, reliable friend. For more information about becoming a foster parent or inviting us to come speak to your congregation, please call Mariah Parton at (865)560-2558 or visit www.youthvillages.org/foster today.

BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH:

Everyone is invited to attend our upcoming special events and services.

Annual Thanksgiving Eve Service:

Featuring **The McKameys, Wednesday, November 21, 7:00 pm.** Not a ticketed concert. A love offering will be received. Plan to stay for fellowship and "finger foods" after the service.

27th Annual Christmas Drama:

Saturday & Sunday, December 8–9, 7:00 pm

Both events will be held at the church at 130 Bethlehem Church Road, Madisonville, TN 37354. For more information, please contact Larry Wayne at lwayne@eaglestrategy.com call (423) 545-9021

CEDAR VALLEY BAPTIST

CURCH: Praise God for the wonderful revival God sent our way at Cedar Valley! Thank you, Brother Gerald Atkins, for coming and sharing God's word in a powerful way - hearts were revived and greatly challenged, and we thank God for the two souls that accepted Christ into their hearts.



We were also blessed by having Brother Ellis and his wife come and share about the great mission work that is happening through the Final Frontiers. Preachers and Bible smugglers are being supported in their mission to share the Gospel to the people in Africa and other countries. Many children are being ministered to also. It was also great to have Pastor Rigaberto from Nicaragua come spend time with us and share about the great mission work there.

As we near the Thanksgiving season, we are so thankful for the many blessings God is pouring out on us! We have been blessed with approximately 8 new members who have joined our congregation in the past few days. We would like to ask that you join us in prayer for one of our church members as he is suffering from cancer – it was a blessing to see him follow the Lord in Baptism this past Sunday. As the title of one of our songs says, "Thank you Lord, for your Blessings on me!" --Bettye Allen



HILLTOP BAPTIST CHURCH: We have been richly blessed with several new members joining our church the last few months. With the addition of several young people, we have started new Wednesday night classes for children and youth. These services begin at 7:00 pm each Wednesday and all students are invited to attend.

In October, we ordained a new deacon, Brother Guy Rucker. Guy and his wife, Teresa are willing and eager to take on the duties of the church. They are well-grounded in their faith and look forward to serving the congregation in our church. They are proud parents of two fine sons and have two wonderful grandchildren, who they know, one day, will come to know God and be saved.

On October 14th, we had a Gideon Speaker for our morning service. We were truly blessed by his report about Bibles being sent to other countries and giving Bibles in our schools here at home. We hope to continue this every year and support this worthy cause.

Also, on October 14th, we celebrated Pastor Appreciation Day for our Pastor, Chris Gee. He was surprised with lunch and a framed picture of a beautiful deer was presented to him by the church (since hunting is his passion). We are truly blessed to have a Pastor like Chris filling our pulpit and preaching the Word of God.

We are looking forward to the seasons of Thanksgiving and Christmas. From our church family to yours, we hope that the Spirit of the holidays are in your life and homes. May each of you be greatly blessed with the love of God this holiday season.



MT. ZION BAPTIST CHURCH: In December, we will have several special events. The annual Widows Banquet will be held after Sunday morning service on December 2nd.

On Saturday, December 8th, a "Community Christmas Party" will be held from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. in our fellowship hall. The WMU is currently gathering shoebox gifts that will be distributed to all the children that attend the party. Food, games, and lots of fun are planned for this event!

Our children's Christmas program will be presented on Sunday morning December 23, and the adult play will be that night. All of Mt. Zion would like to wish everyone a very Blessed and Happy Christmas! --Sheila Miller



NEW BETHANY BAPTIST

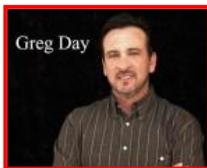
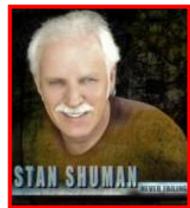
CHURCH: On October 20th, our church was blessed to be able to help with the Sportsman's Day at the Sequoyah Museum. Souls were saved and that is what it is all about! Thank you to Clint and Kelly Brackett for all you do in ministry! Also, since October was Pastor Appreciation month, we want to say

thank you to our wonderful pastor, Matthew Johnson. You are a blessing to our church. Thank you so much for all you do! We are happy to announce that we have a new youth pastor! We want to thank Chad and Marcia Johnson for all their work with the youth. They are a tremendous blessing to have in our church as well. On October 28th, our youth drama team, PHISH and Garments of Praise, our adult drama team, performed at Trinity Baptist Church. It was a wonderful night in the Lord! On October 31st, we had our Hallelujah Night. Teen Challenge International came to give their testimony on November 11th. Please join with us in prayer for these young ladies as they live for the Lord.

We have several upcoming special events and services. Everyone is welcome and invited to attend.

- Thursday, November 15 - Community Thanksgiving Dinner
5:30 pm - 8:00 pm
- Sunday, December 9 - Old Fashioned Christmas
Soup & Sandwiches after morning service
Decorate the Church and Fellowship
Evening Service at 4:00 pm, with Testimonies
- Sunday, December 16 - Christmas Play
- Sunday, December 23 - Christmas Cantata, Morning Service
Children's Play, Evening Service

If you have any questions about any of these activities, please call 423-337-0701. We will be praying you all have a blessed holiday season!



Singer/Songwriter, Stan Shuman as well as Singer/Songwriter Greg Day (writer of "Midnight Cry"), will be our special guests.

ROCKY SPRINGS

BAPTIST CHURCH: On Sunday, **November 18th, 6:00 pm**, everyone is invited to come and join us for an exceptional evening of Gospel music.

Rocky Springs has had a busy fall season. We have recently gone through "Every Believer a Witness" evangelism training. It is a wonderful program that helps you relate your story to others. We have also enjoyed the beautiful weather by celebrating with our church family at our annual hayride and chili cook-off. We also had a great time participating in Halloween in the City. Thanks to all who helped with this event. A special thank you is in order for a couple in our church who volunteered their time and talent to put together a new church directory. On Sunday, November 11, we held a special Veteran's Day service, with a meal following to honor all our veterans. Thank you for your service and sacrifice.

As the holiday season fast approaches us, we are planning several events. On Sunday, December 9, the adults will be presenting "A Watt Family Christmas." This comedy shares the real meaning of Christmas and God's love, with a little laughter along the way. Please join us at 6:00 pm. We are having a time of fellowship with dinner, on Sunday, December 16, following the evening service. We pray each of you has a joyful and blessed Christmas Season.



POPLAR BLUFF BAPTIST CHURCH:

On Friday, November 2, 2012 at 8:00 am, the 51

Member Mission Team from Poplar Bluff Missionary Baptist Church headed out for a seven-hour trip to Kimble, West Virginia. With four trucks towing four large trailers loaded with clothing, school supplies, toys, and personal hygiene items, along with three vans and one bus all heading north to share Jesus with this community. We also had the Associational Ministry Trailer to serve hot dogs, nachos and much more to the people in need there.

On Saturday, we began at 9:00 am and served over 190 families until 1:00 pm. This area is truly in need, and God blessed us with five souls saved while we were there and many other seeds were sown. This trip humbled all who took part and we are so richly blessed to be able to serve our Lord where He sends us. We are so happy to reach out and help lead others to



the salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ. We also saw one of our own accept Christ as her Savior on our return trip home on Sunday.

We thank God for our Pastor Roman and his family and his vision in leading us to the next level following God's Holy Word. The fields are white for harvest, so let's go get them and compel them to come in. We at Poplar Bluff are reloading and reorganizing, getting ready for where God sends us next. --Brian Turpin, Missions Coordinator

SHOAL CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH:

We thank God for all He has done these past two months. We have seen six professions of faith and one person to join our church.



Please keep praying for our building project. If any church groups want to volunteer to help work on our building project, please contact Pastor Steve Strickland at 423-519-5711 or 423- 442-1157 or Jerry Loftin at 423-506-1331 or 423-253-7364.

We are very excited about our Christmas Play this year. The play will be presented on December 14th and 15th at 7:00 pm and on December 16th at 6:00 pm.

O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; for his mercy endureth forever. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom he had redeemed from the hand of the enemy. Psalm 107:1-2 --Jessica Hill



OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS:

Downtown Vonore, December 8th. After Christmas Parade. *Anyone wanting to participate in the Community Choir, please contact Chris Hall at 253-4590 or Mike Kiser at 442-9901.

December, 2012

"I bring you good tidings of great joy
Which shall be to all people."--Luke 2:10

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Emphasis: Foreign Missions, Student Day at Christmas	East TN Healthcare WMU Birthday Cake December: New Bethany					1
2 Week of Prayer for International Missions and Lettie Moon Christmas Offering	3 Pastor Conf. 10:00 a.m.	SBA Office Hours Mon-Thurs 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.			7 SBA Pastors and Wives Christmas Banquet, Vonore Baptist Church, Family Life Center, 6:30 p.m.	8
9	10 Pastor Conf. 10:00 a.m. The Harvest Conference, 7:00 p.m. SBA Office	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 NO Pastor Conf.	18	19	20 Office Closed Holiday	21 Winter Break Monroe County Schools Dec. 21-Jan. 7 Office Closed	22
23	24 Office Closed Christmas Eve	25 Office Closed Holiday Christmas Day	26 Office Closed Holiday	27 Office Closed Holiday	28 Office Closed	29
30	31 New Year's Eve Office Closed					

Our Office will be closed through January 4th in observance of the holiday. We are thankful to the Association for allowing us this time to spend with our families and friends. We wish for you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. *The Associational Staff*

January, 2013

"Be strong in the grace that is in
Christ Jesus." — 2 Timothy 2:1

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Winter Break Monroe County Schools Dec. 21-Jan. 7	1 New Years Day Office Closed	2 Holiday Office Closed	3 Holiday Office Closed	4 Office Closed	5
6	7 Pastor Conf. 10:00 a.m. Youth Committee Meeting, 5:00 p.m. Missions Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m.	8 Seminary Extension Class- Jan. 8-April 2, 6:30 p.m.	9	10	11	12
13	14 Pastor Conf. 10:00 a.m.	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 NO Pastor Conf. Associational Evangelism Conference, Notchey Creek, Dr. Bobby Welch 5:30 p.m. More Life Rally 6:45 p.m. Worship Service	22 VBS Team Meeting, SBA Office, 7:00 p.m.	23	24	25	26
27	28 Pastor Conf. 10:00 a.m.	29	30	31 CONCLAVE, TBC Youth Leaders Training, Chattanooga, Jan 31-Feb 2		East TN Healthcare WMU Birthday Cake January: Ebenezer

Information for the next newsletter must be received by January 10, 2013.

Sweetwater Baptist Association
696 Anderson Street
Madisonville, TN 37354

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RA Director Phil Roy	WMU Director Audrey Stephens	Vacation Bible School Director Katrina Umphrey
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Scholarship Committee Chris Hollinghead, Chairman	Trustees Don Rockholt, Chairman	Youth Council Jarrod Johnson, Chairman

NEWS FROM AROUND THE ASSOCIATION

Director of Mission Visits:

Clifton, Westside, Druid Hills, Long Ridge, Trinity, Antioch, Fairview (Tellico), Lower Chilhowee, Glenlock, Gregory's Chapel, Murray's, Hopewell Springs, Oakland, Cedar Valley, Concord, Watson's Chapel, Hilltop, Fairview Tabernacle, Westside, Old Pond Hill, Miller's Chapel, Unity, Paint Rock, Northport

Please pray for our churches without pastors:

Chestua, North Sweetwater, Rural Vale, Unicoi, Union Hall

