

THE MESSENGER of the Sweetwater Baptist Association

"Churches on Mission Together"
Celebrating 184 years, 1830 – 2014

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Check Out Our Website: www.sweetwaterbaptistassociation.com

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Volume 4

November/December, 2014

Number 20

Sweetwater Baptist Association

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

Haiti Mission Project

February 7-14, 2015

Construction team needed to roof multi-purpose building

Guatemala Mission Project

(TBC Partnership)

September 29-October 6, 2015

6-9 Revival Teams needed for crusade/evangelism

Please contact the SBA Office for additional information, applications, deposit information, etc.

Sweetwater Baptist Association

Associational Evangelism Conference

Monday, January 26, 2015

6:45 p.m.

Conference Speaker

Fred Luter, Senior Pastor

Franklin Avenue Baptist Church, New Orleans
and Former President of Southern Baptist Convention

Hosted by

Notchey Creek Baptist Church

Madisonville, Tennessee

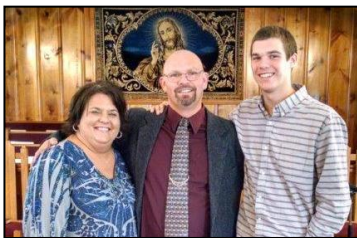
EVERYONE INVITED

Special Music

Sweetwater Baptist
Associational Choir
under the direction of
Phillip Johnson
Associational
Music Director



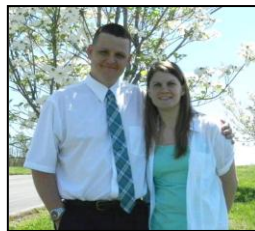
Sweetwater Baptist Association Welcomes New Pastors



Concord Baptist Church

Pastor Chris Hamilton at Concord

(Left to right) Wife, Traci, Pastor Chris, and Son, Brady



Community Baptist Church

Pastor Rick Hensley at Community

(Left to right) Pastor Rick and Wife, Melissa

Our prayers are with these dear men of God and their congregations as they work to win their communities to Christ.

2014-2015 Officers of the Sweetwater Baptist Association



Please pray for the Associational Leadership as they serve the Churches...

(Left to right) David Chambers, 2014-2015 Vice-Moderator (Pastor, Altoona Baptist Church)

Tony Rutherford, Director of Missions

Roman Hamilton, 2014-2015 Moderator (Pastor, Poplar Bluff Baptist Church)

Carroll Hamilton, 2013-2014 Outgoing Moderator (Pastor, Long Ridge Baptist Church)

Vacation Bible School

2015 Schedule of Events

- VBS Preview Clinic, February 24th
- VBS Clinic, March 24th
(Watch for further details!)

LifeWay's 2015 VBS Sampler Kits will be 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.

SWEETWATER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

2015 High School Scholarship Applications

Completed
Applications

DUE March 1st



Pastor and Wife

Christmas Banquet

Monday, December 8th
6:30 p.m.

Vonore Baptist Church
Family Life Center, Vonore

Reservations required. Please call SBA Office at 442-6604 or email becky.jones@bellsouth.net or sweetwaterassoci@bellsouth.net



Director of Missions

Who are Southern Baptists? The founding of The Southern Baptist Convention took place in Augusta, Georgia in 1845. Several issues caused the separation of the Baptist movement in the United States. One of the most serious issues was slavery. However, other issues caused Baptist churches in the south to adopt four major doctrines to clarify their identity.



The first doctrine concerned the **view of the Scriptures**. Southern Baptists affirmed the authority of the Scriptures as the word of God. Scripture has "God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter."

The second doctrine addressed the **Deity of Jesus Christ**. "There is one and only one living and true God. The eternal triune God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being."

The third doctrine put forth was the **Priesthood of the Believers**. Within the Southern Baptist Convention, all believers have the same rights and privileges as the local priest. No mediator is necessary to gain access to the Father. Christ becomes our intercessor. Each person is encouraged to be God's ambassador to a lost and dying world.

The fourth doctrine that helped Southern Baptists focus on lost and maintain our unique identity is the **autonomy of the local church**. "Members of New Testament churches should cooperate with one another in carrying forward the missionary, educational, and benevolent ministries for the extension of Christ's Kingdom." However, "no organization will have authority over one another or over the churches."

These statements of doctrine are given in an abbreviated form, and have served our Convention well, since its foundation. They have been highly valued and preserved over the years. (Much of this information was taken from *The Baptist Faith and Message, 2000*.) The reason these doctrines have weathered the storms of time is that wise men have known that issues can easily beset us from greater goals. In the Great Commission, Christ gave us in Matthew 28:19-20, it demands our vision upon the unreached, untrained, and unbelieving of our world.

From my pastorate days, I recall a story of two churches that I would like to share with you.

The first church was in deep debate. The flooring consisting of plywood, and throw rugs had served the congregation well for many years. Some felt it was time to go forward and lay the hardwood flooring that the original plans called for years ago. Yet, there were those who felt the sub-flooring and rugs were more than adequate for the "meeting house." At times, the debate grew heavy. Comments were hurled across the room like spitballs in a one-room schoolhouse. The issue was laid aside for one week of prayer and meditation.

Gathering one week later did not seem to cool the tempers of the outspoken individuals who truly felt they were doing the best for the church. After more discussion, a vote was finally taken. The sub-flooring would soon be covered with new tongue-and-grooved hardwood. Saturday was the appointed day that all the men would bring their tools. Bending upon their knees, they would carefully lay the flooring. The women would gather around noon and bring in much needed nourishment for the workers.

A moment of fear swept through the pastor's heart as he saw the black Ford pull into the driveway. It was the first car to arrive. It was the leader of the opposition (the sub-flooring is good enough spokesperson). What would happen now? To the pastor's surprise, the gentleman opened the trunk of his car and pulled out a tool belt filled with a hammer, tape, and other items. He came to work. The man laid more flooring than any other worker did that day.

Another nearby church seemed to be caught in a similar confrontation. Some felt it was time to pave the driveway, while others declared it would be money wasted. Surely, the vote would settle the issue and all would calm down. Everyone knows that cooler heads and time heals all wounds. After the vote was approved, the job was given to the lowest bidder.

It was noticeable to those who were aware of the confrontation inside the church that a silent protest was taking place outside the building. Until his last days, the anti-paving representative refused to park on the pavement.

I am not sure God is so much concerned about our flooring or our pavement, but He is concerned about our attitudes. Which of the two men demonstrated wisdom and did the will of the Father? Which of these men let issues distract them from the greater goal of The Great Commission? Let us commit ourselves to His task that is before us.

-- Tony Rutherford

GUATEMALA (Tennessee Baptist Convention) MISSION PROJECT:

The Tennessee Baptist Convention has asked the Sweetwater Baptist Association to participate in a pilot project in Guatemala. The mission project will focus in the Pacific Coast region, and will be September 29-October 6, 2015. The volunteer mission team will need up to 30 people to serve on revival teams and we will need 6-8 preachers for a Crusade.



The Tennessee Baptist Convention is requiring all participants to attend orientation training in February or April. This will include More Life training, cross-cultural and (3-hour) security training. Much of the training will be available on-line. The cost for the mission project is approximately \$1200-1500 per person. This includes airfare, lodging, meals and in-country transportation. The cost does not include: passport, passport photos, medical/vaccinations, snacks, required child protection training and background screening, and required travel safety training.

Please contact the Sweetwater Baptist Association if you are interested in serving on a revival mission team in Guatemala in 2015.

HOPE FOR HAITI: Our Association of Churches continues to respond in a great way to the on-going partnership mission in Haiti. Our churches provide for children at the orphanage operated by Pastor Gaetan Alcegaire. Food, clothing, shelter and schooling are furnished for the children. In addition to providing support for the orphan children, construction continues at the new church/school building at the Foundation Yaveh Shamma for the Children Orphanage operated by Pastor Gaetan.

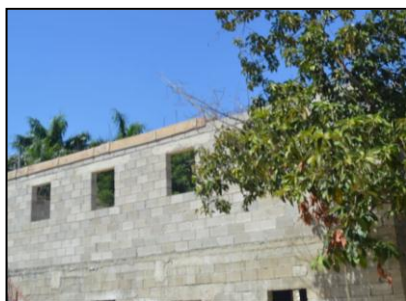
HOPE FOR HAITI



Last year, a construction company was contracted to provide the metal beams and steel for the roof support that is between the first and second floors of the building. This

work has been completed, and the Director of Missions returned from a trip to Haiti in August to view the on-site work. Pastor Gaetan and other workers from the Children's Orphanage were hired to lay the concrete blocks for the second floor of the building.

Now we need your help! In February of 2015, a team of construction workers from the Sweetwater Baptist Association will be needed to build the rafters and roof the building. **Please contact the Sweetwater**



Baptist Association office, if you would like to be part of the upcoming mission project and serve on the construction mission team. Mission volunteers must have a valid passport and would need to get any required vaccinations from their doctor or health department.

Please continue to pray for Pastor Gaetan, the children at the orphanage, construction teams, the building project and how God would lead you to be a part of a short-term mission team or share in this ministry as we work to share the love of Christ in the country of Haiti.

REPORT FROM ANNUAL MEETING, 2014: *"In the Beginning God..."* was the theme for the Sweetwater Baptist Association, 2014 Annual Meeting. As always, our sessions were a time of worship, and important business was conducted during the sessions as we gathered together, as well.



During the Business Session, a proposed budget of \$164,133.00 was approved by Messengers. The total overall increase in the budget was \$940.00 or less than 1%. David Chambers (Pastor of Altoona Baptist Church) was elected as Vice-Moderator for 2014-2015 and Roman Hamilton (Pastor of Poplar Bluff Baptist Church) will serve as Moderator for 2014-2015.

Missions Committee Chairman, Don Rockholt reviewed the 2013-2014 work of the Association, which included continuing construction at school/orphanage building project in



Haiti, medical care provided by RAM, workday on sanctuary at Williamsburg and World Changers being planned for 2015. It was reported that the new church start-up, The Fellowship Church has met all requirements for petitioning the Sweetwater Baptist Association for membership, and has been taken under the watch-care of the Association pending vote of Messengers at the 2015



Annual Meeting. It was further reported that the Missions Committee has accepted a request from the Tennessee Baptist Convention to participate in a pilot mission project to

Guatemala in 2015.

Incoming Missions Committee Chairman, Chris Farmer was recognized. He requested that the Missions Committee reconvene to discuss matters.

We want to thank 250+ Pastors, Messengers and visitors that were in attendance for the sessions. We want to thank host churches, Hopewell Springs, Madisonville and Pastor Chris Farmer, and New Providence, Tellico Plains and Pastor Rick Atkins. We want to thank Brother Phillip Johnson and the Associational Choir, as well as Amy Ferguson and Cori Hamilton for providing the special music for the sessions. We also want to thank Dr. Edward Johnson for sharing the mission message. A special thank you, also, to our Moderator Carroll Hamilton for his humble spirit and outstanding leadership this past year, and for sharing the Moderator's Message for the final session.



We want to thank the Program Committee, and everyone on the program that helped 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, 2015.



2015 ASSOCIATIONAL EVANGELISM CONFERENCE: We want to personally invite you to attend our 2015 Sweetwater Baptist Association **Evangelism Conference.** The meeting will be held on **Monday, January 26, 2015.** 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 Pastor Fred Luter. Pastor Luter truly loves God and loves to do God's work. He is a respected speaker/preacher across the country. He is the Senior Pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans, and in 2012 served as the President of the Southern Baptist Convention. Pastor Luter has a strong commitment to the local church, a love for the Word of God, and a heart for lost souls. We know you will be blessed by his message.

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 practice "cd's" available at the Associational Office. Please stop by the SBA Office to pick up a copy of the music "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 26th at Notchey Creek Baptist Church!**



WMU and LADIES MINISTRY:

It was a blessing to be at Notchey Creek Baptist Church for our WMU Quarterly Meeting in November. Crissy Steele Harrison shared her powerful testimony, and Sharon Brookshire presented the special music. Thank you Pastor Gale

Miller and ladies of the church for making us feel so welcome, and preparing the wonderful food. The offering received on the evening will be used to help fund the 2015 WMU Expo. It was a joy to worship together at Notchey Creek.

Remember when it is your WMU's time to provide a birthday cake for East Tennessee Healthcare.

- November..... Bethlehem
- December....New Bethany
- JanuaryEbenezer
- February..... Rocky Springs

As Thanksgiving draws nearer, let us remember that we serve a God who cares for us. Let's use this special time to be with our families and friends. Let's be truly thankful and not take our blessings for granted.



As we look toward the Christmas season, my wish for you is that your Christmas be filled with health, happiness, and a love for all, and that you will have a love for missions more next year than this year. *Love in Christ, Charlotte Hollinghead, Associational WMU Director*

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. Join in *One Sacred Effort .. Find Your Place in God's Story* for mankind and for all to know Him. Through giving, your church is sending and supporting missionaries, advancing the Gospel to the nations.



Your impact through The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering...

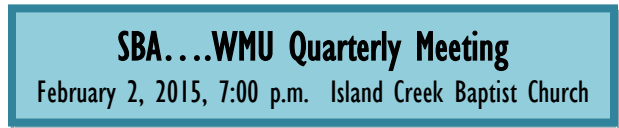
- Thousands of people and churches give through the offering
- 100% is used to send and support missionaries (currently 4900)
- In one year, they shared His redemptive story with 1.7 million people
- Trained 23,000 nationals to start new churches
- Helped start 6,200 churches
- All the while they worked to rescue slaves, feed orphans and care for the needy

Why should your church give to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering?

- Nearly 1,700,000 heard a Gospel witness
- More than 235,000 became new believers
- 141 new people groups were engaged

These numbers represent changed lives with new hope and purpose. YET...4 billion remain lost! We still have many challenges to face! Out of the world's 11,000-plus people groups, nearly 7,000 are considered unreached. They include more than half the world's population. Working together we can do more through **ONE SACRED EFFORT.**

The suggested date for the Week of Prayer for International Missions and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is November 30-December 7. Please help take the Gospel everywhere, all the way to the ends of the earth.



Tour of Missions, 2015

WMU EXPO
"Tour of Missions, 2015"
November 14th



Watch for further details!



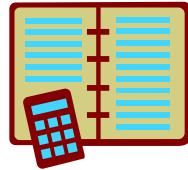
Macy Small, M.A.
 112 Key Kile Road
 Sweetwater, TN 37874
 865.414.3269
www.fairviewfamily.org

“Why did I wait so long?” ♦ “I thought I could take care of it myself.” ♦ “I never thought it would end up like this.” ♦ “How did I even get to this point in my life?”

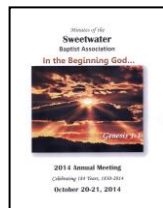
Unfortunately, these comments are made far too often. Too many people try to handle their situation alone when God has made wise counsel available. Proverbs states “Plans fail for lack of counsel” (Proverbs 15:22). But Psalm states “I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you” (Psalm 32:8).

Hope and help are available for whatever your situation and you do not have to go through it alone. -- **Macy Small, M.A., The Upper Room Christian Counseling**

ATTENTION CHURCH LEADERSHIP: We did not receive the 2014 Annual Church Profile (ACP), which includes statistical data and leadership information from four (4) churches. The churches were: **Chestua, Druid Hill, Fairview (Tellico) and Mt Pleasant.** We will still be happy to receive the ACP church information from any of these churches. However, since the completed ACP’s were due on October 2nd, information from any additional ACP’s received will not appear in the 2014 Associational Minutes. Our reports have already been compiled, processed and sent to the printers.



ATTENTION CHURCH CLERKS: The 2014 Minutes of the 184th Annual Meeting of the Sweetwater Baptist Association are at the printers and should be available for pickup in our office the middle of December. If your church ordered copies of the 2014 SBA Minutes, we will notify you as soon as these are printed and you may stop by to pick up your copies.



Extra copies of the Minutes are available at \$7.00 per printed copy on a first-come, first-serve basis. The Minutes of the 184th Annual Meeting will also be available on our website at www.sweetwaterbaptistassociation.com

PASTOR AND WIFE CHRISTMAS BANQUET:

Pastors, this is just a reminder that you still have time to send in your reservations for our annual Pastor and Wives Christmas Banquet. It will be held this year on Monday evening, December 8th at 6:30 p.m. at Vonore Baptist Church, Family Life Center. 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, a \$5.00 per person registration fee is being 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 20th.

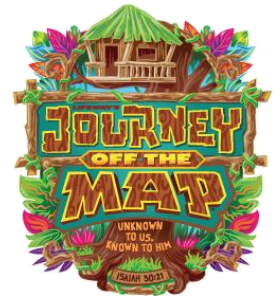
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL NEWS:

We are honored to be chosen as the Associational Vacation Bible School Directors. We look forward to serving you this year. We are excited about taking the “Journey off the Map.” Watch for more information about the upcoming clinics. We can’t wait to help you plan and prepare for your Vacation Bible School! Have a blessed Christmas season! **Bryan and Kim Williamson, Associational VBS Directors**



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL SAMPLER KITS:

LifeWay’s 2015 VBS, “Journey Off the Map...Unknown to Us, Known to Him” Jump-Start Kits are NOW available at the Sweetwater Baptist Association office. Please contact the SBA Office at 442-6604 to reserve the kit and materials that are just right for your church.



“Journey Off the Map” introduces Jesus as the ultimate Guide on DAY 1 and shares how to have a personal relationship with Him. On DAYS 2-5, kids will explore stories from the Book of Daniel. These Bible stories show how Daniel and his friends followed God as their Guide. Kids will learn from these examples that Jesus is our ultimate Guide. The motto is “This is the way. Walk in it.” with VBS Scripture from Isaiah 30:21.

We will be happy to help you with your 2015 Vacation Bible School team, resources and supplies. We encourage you to look at LifeWay’s 2015 Vacation Bible School materials.

If your church does not have Vacation Bible School, we encourage you to prayerfully reconsider! There are many tools available to help your church with VBS including the church Link-up Plan. We will be happy to help your church with VBS team workers, and/or link-up resources and supplies. If your church needs any assistance with VBS for 2015, or if you have ANY questions about conducting a VBS, feel free to contact the SBA office for more information.

The **VBS Preview Clinic** will be held at the **SBA Office on Tuesday evening, February 24th at 7:00 p.m.** We want to encourage all Pastors and VBS Directors (or anyone that would like to look over the VBS materials) to attend. We are praying for our churches and for your Vacation Bible Schools. The Associational VBS Clinic will be held on March 24th. Please mark these important dates on your calendar.

God wants to do GREAT and MIGHTY things!

YOUTH COMMITTEE NEWS: My name is Kevin Manis. I have been the Youth Pastor at Walnut Grove Baptist Church for the last year. I will be serving as Chairman of the Youth Committee for the Sweetwater Baptist Association for this upcoming year. I am excited to serve on the Youth Committee and hope to see you and your youth group at Youth Reach in July, 2015.



A little about myself, people mostly know me by my nickname "Turtle". My wife, Tressa, and I have been married for 16 years and we have one daughter, Kaitlyn who is 14. I live in Philadelphia, Tennessee and work for TDOT. I grew up at Cedar Valley Baptist Church where I accepted Christ at the age of 14 on a youth trip. We have a heart for missions and try to involve our youth in all of our mission activities.

If you need to reach me, you can contact the Association Office or call/ text me. My number is 865-406-7432. May each of you have a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas. In Christ, **Kevin "Turtle" Manis**, *Associational Youth Committee Chairman*



2015 SEE YOU AT THE POLE: was observed on Wednesday, Sept. 24th. Students, teachers, faculty and parents met for prayer before school. The following numbers

were reported to the associational office: Sequoyah High School had approximately 75 in attendance; Madisonville Middle School had approximately 60 in attendance.

2015 HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS:

Pastors and youth leaders for each of our churches should have already 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 is available on our website at www.sweetwaterbaptistassociation.com

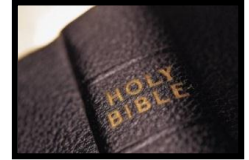
FAIRVIEW TABERNACLE: Fairview Baptist Tabernacle Church in Sweetwater is accepting resumes for a part-time youth minister. The position requires sound biblical doctrine, seminary degree preferred, but not required, for the right individual. Experience is required, preferably 5-8 years.

Accepting Resumes for Youth Minister

The position requires excellent teaching and organizational skills, and the minister must be able to teach and interact with youth of different ages and spiritual levels ranging from ages 12-18.

The person filling this position needs to have a high energy level and outgoing personality, but most of all needs to have a Love and Passion for youth and an understanding of the unique responsibilities surrounding youth ministry. Resumes may be sent to: Personnel Committee, c/o Jane Bettis, 10608 Jim Dyke Road, Loudon, TN 37774.

SEMINARY EXTENSION: The winter session for seminary extension classes at the Sweetwater Baptist Association office will begin on January 6th at 6:30 pm. The course study is *How to Understand the Bible*. The full cost of the course is \$186.99; however, the cost will be \$ 50.00 per student. This reduced cost is made possible due to Tennessee Baptist Churches giving through the Cooperative Program, and scholarship funds being made available for this ministry through the Tennessee Baptist Convention and Sweetwater Baptist Association. Students who wish to audit the class, can do so for a \$20.00 fee (no books or credit will be available for audit students). Dr. Dennis Ellis will be the instructor for this class. Please call the office or email becky.jones@bellsouth.net or sweetwaterassoci@bellsouth.net to pre-register by December 17th.



For more information, please contact the associational office at 423-442-6604.



We are pleased to share that Amendment 1 passed. Thank you to everyone who voted to help claim this small victory in the stand against abortion.

SHOAL CREEK: We would like to recognize the 10 year anniversary of our pastor, Steve Strickland. We are truly blessed to have Pastor Steve and our youth pastor, Jonathan Walker. Continue to keep praying for our building project! *Audrey Walker*



CEDAR VALLEY: Director of Missions, Tony Rutherford presented Rev. Clint Riddle, Pastor Emeritus with a certificate from the Tennessee Baptist Convention, in honor of their 75th Anniversary.

Tennessee Baptist Convention presents
Bivocational Ministers and Wives Retreat
 Music Road Hotel and Convention Center, Pigeon Forge, TN
January 29-31, 2015
 Cost \$200.00 per couple
 Covers hotel, meals and breaks

For more information and/or program/schedule or to register online please check website at www.tnbivo.org

WORLD CHANGERS Gospel + Construction

July 6-11, 2015

Monroe County area

- Funds needed for local projects
- Project applications being received at SBA Office
- Work will not be done on business or rental property
- Homeowners must be referred by local church and pastor
- Volunteer workers needed

Please contact the Sweetwater Baptist Association office at 442-6604 or visit our website at www.sweetwaterbaptistassociation.com for application to serve as volunteer on teams or for further details.

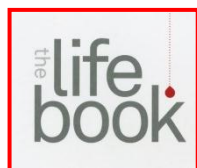


ROCKY SPRINGS: We have enjoyed an exciting fall and looking forward to a wonderful holiday season. During our fall revival, four precious souls were saved. Praise God! We also want to thank the Atkins' family for hosting our annual hayride. We have several upcoming events and invite everyone to join us.

On Sunday, November 23rd at 5:00 pm, we will be having special singing and testimonies, followed by our Harvest Supper. On Sunday, December 7th at 6:00 pm, the children will present "The Gift of Advent," and on December 14th at 6:00 pm, the adults will present "Hope was Born this Night". Please join us to celebrate the real meaning of the Christmas season, Jesus Christ! Prayers for a Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD, RELAY CENTER (SHOEBOX DROP-OFF) LOCATIONS:

- **Island Creek Baptist Church**
2505 Hwy 411 N, Madisonville
November 17-24. Mon-Fri: 10:00 am-6:00 pm, Sat: 10:00 am-3:00 pm, Sun 12:30 pm-5:30 pm, Mon, Nov 24: 10:00 am-2:00 pm. Contacts: Darlene White 423-337-1917, Sherry Kidd 423-261-4573 or Debbie Roberts 423-337-1315.
- **Sweetwater, First Baptist Church**
303 Wright Street, Sweetwater
November 17-24. Mon-Fri: 3:00 pm-6:00 pm, Sat: 9:00 am-Noon, Sun: Noon-3:00 pm, Mon: 9:00 am-11:00 am. Contacts: Tim Koeshall 423-404-8569, Samantha Cantrell 423-337-3533.



Gideons International has made available, The Life Book – a valuable tool for students to share the gospel with their peers. If you are interested in providing this resource to your students, please contact Jarrod Johnson, Youth Pastor at Bethlehem

Baptist Church at 423-404-4732.

RURAL VALE: Our Christmas program will be presented on Saturday, December 13th, at 6:30 PM. Everyone is invited!



November 30th, at 11:00 am.

OAKLAND: In the past few months, five souls have been saved; we've had nine baptisms and five more that have joined the church. Praise the Lord! God is truly moving in our church and we desire your continued fervent prayers. Fifth Sunday Singing and Harvest Luncheon will be held on

JEHOVAH-JIREH MINISTRIES, INC.: Murray's Baptist Church, Cedar Fork Baptist Church, along with other area churches have begun a non-profit feeding program in Sweetwater. Meals are provided for the lonely, hungry or homeless. Meals are served every Thursday at 6:30 pm at the Marcella Center, 117 Washington Road, Sweetwater. Any church, group or individual willing to help with this ministry can contact Tabitha Woodby at 423-519-0016 or Taylor Hall at 423-920-1486. Please "like" our Facebook page.



GREGORY'S CHAPEL: We celebrated 60 years of service to the Lord on Sept. 19, 2014, and 60 Homecomings on Sept. 21, 2014. We are thankful to be part of a church that stands on God's Word and is led by the Holy Spirit.



WATSON CHAPEL:
Our church will host

a free **Community Thanksgiving Dinner**, Saturday, November 22nd, from Noon until 2:00 pm. Deliveries can be made to shut-ins and elderly. Call 423-442-5459 for more information.



On February 27-28, 2015, Watson Chapel will hold an **Area-Wide Marriage Tune-up Conference**. The conference is led by Jeff and Debby McElroy. For tickets or more information, visit www.watsonchapel.net or call 423-442-5459.

2015 SWEETWATER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION CALENDARS

are at the printing company now, and will be mailed to Pastors and Church Leadership in the next few weeks. When preparing the Associational Calendar, it is our desire that the dates are set so far in advance that all of us can do our planning without conflict of schedule. We hope that you will use the calendar in planning your church events for 2015, and that anything that we have scheduled would not hinder any of the events at one of our Churches. This allows each of us the opportunity to support all of the ministries that are offered by both the Association and each of our Churches.



Sweetwater Baptist Association

696 Anderson Street
Madisonville, TN 37354

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ASSOCIATIONAL OFFICERS

MODERATOR Roman Hamilton	VICE MODERATOR David Chambers	Associational Council Officers & Committee Chairmen
Pastor Advisor Frank Hicks	Church Growth/Leadership Director Frank Crawford	Mission Committee Chris Farmer, Chairman
Disaster Relief Co-Directors Tony Curtis & Bill Westphal	Historian Co-Directors Kay James & Angie Johnson	Media Ministry Director Betty Wolfe
Men's Ministry Director Clint Brackett	Music Director Phillip Johnson	Prayer Ministry Director Svidana Self
RA Director Phil Roy	WMU Director Charlotte Hollinghead	Vacation Bible School Director 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 Julie Anderson, Chairperson
Committee on Nominations Chris Farmer, Chairman	Constitution Committee Carroll Hamilton, Chairman	Evangelism Committee Clayton Dunsmore, Chairman
Finance Committee Joe Little, Chairman	Personnel Committee Diane Wall, Chairperson	Program Committee Johnny Carr, Chairman
Scholarship Committee Tommy Lemmonds, Chairman	Trustees Tony Curtis, Chairman	Youth Council Kevin Manis, Chairman

NEWS FROM AROUND THE ASSOCIATION

Welcome New Pastors

Community.....Rick Hensley
Concord.....Chris Hamilton

Director of Mission Visits:

Compromise, Cedar Valley, Beaty's Chapel, Concord, Lower Chilhowee, Hilltop, Clifton, Oliver Springs First, Fairview Tabernacle, Delano First, Ebenezer, Island Creek, Druid Hill, Watson Chapel, Murray's Chapel, Sweetwater First, Glenlock, Critico, Hopewell Springs, New Providence, Oak Grove

Please pray for our churches without pastors:

Cedar Fork, Clifton, Cedar Valley (Interim), Fairview (Tellico), Reed Springs (Interim)



December, 2014

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace,
good will toward men." --Luke 2:14

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
East TN Healthcare WMU Birthday Cakes- November Bethlehem	1 No Pastor Conf.	2 Week of Prayer for International Missions Nov 30-Dec 7 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering	3	4	5	6
7	8 No Pastor Conf. SBA Pastor/Wife Christmas Banquet, Vonore BC 6:30 p.m.	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 No Pastor Conf.	16	17	18	19 Winter Break, MCBE, Dec 19-Jan 5 Dismiss @ 10:00 a.m.	20
21	22 No Pastor Conf. Holiday Office Closed	23 Office Closed	24 Christmas Eve Office Closed	25 Christmas Day Office Closed	26	27
28 East TN Healthcare WMU Birthday Cake- December New Bethany	29 No Pastor Conf. Holiday Office Closed.	30 New Year's Eve Holiday Office Closed	31 	JAN 1 	JAN 2	JAN 3

January, 2015

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto
my path." --Psalm 119:105

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
East TN Healthcare WMU Birthday Cakes- January - Ebenezer	Winter Break, MCBE, Dec. 19-Jan. 5			1 New Year's Day Holiday Office Closed	2	3
4	5 Pastor Conf. 10:00 a.m. No School Monroe Co.	6 Seminary Extension Class Begins 6:30 p.m.	7	8	9	10
11	12 Pastor Conf. 10:00 a.m. Youth Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m.	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 Pastor Conf. 10:00 a.m.	20 YBS Team Meeting, SBA Office, 7:00 p.m.	21	22	23	24
25	26 No Pastor Conf. Evangelism Conference, Notchey Creek Baptist Church, Speaker: Fred Luter, 6:45 p.m.	27	28	29 TBC Bivocational Pastor & Wife Retreat Conclave Youth Ministry Training, Chattanooga Convention Center Jan 29-31	30 TBC Bivocational Pastor & Wife Retreat Conclave Youth Ministry Training, Chattanooga Convention Center Jan 29-31	31 Conclave Youth Ministry Training, Chattanooga Convention Center Jan 29-31 East TN Healthcare WMU Birthday Cake- February New Bethany

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

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