

THE MESSENGER of the Sweetwater Baptist Association

"Seventy-one Churches on Mission Together"
Celebrating 181 years, 1830 – 2011

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Check Out Our Website: www.sweetwaterbaptistassociation.com

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SWEETWATER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION 2012 Associational EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

Monday, January 23, 2012
6:45 p.m.

Theme: Revive Us Again

Conference Speaker

Dr. Don Wilton

Pastor, First Baptist Church
Spartanburg, South Carolina



Evening Session will be hosted by

Notchey Creek Baptist Church

Madisonville, Tennessee

Sweetwater Baptist Association

Report from Annual Meeting, 2011

- Churches of the Sweetwater Baptist Association will participate in 2012 Simultaneous Revivals scheduled for April.
- Churches of the Sweetwater Baptist Association entered into a 5-year partnership with Great River Association, in the Davenport, Iowa area to help strengthen church to church relationships, and provide short-term mission volunteer/ministry teams.
- Churches of the Sweetwater Baptist Association entered into a 5-year partnership with Gaetan Alcegaire and the Foundation Yaveh Shamma for the Children Orphan in Haiti for the dual purpose of (a) construction of church and 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.

Revivals



Iowa



Haiti

SWEETWATER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION Pastor and Wife Christmas Banquet

Friday, December 2, 2011, 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 Welcomes New Pastor



Mt. Calvary Baptist Church Gerald Lynn and wife Janet

Our thoughts and prayers are with Brother Gerald and Janet and Mt. Calvary Baptist Church as they work to win their community for Christ.

Director of Missions



Now that the Annual Meeting is behind us, it is time to reflect on what we as an Association of Churches committed to accomplish. There were three major recommendations approved by Messengers during the business session at the Annual Meeting on Tuesday evening at Vonore Baptist Church.

The first recommendation approved was for the churches to participate in the simultaneous revivals scheduled for April, 2012. Each church is to prayerfully seek the Lord's direction in acquiring an evangelist. The church also needs to select a target area of outreach and work up a strategy of ministry. We also recommend the "Find It Here, Gospel of John/Romans" booklet to be used as a prayer partner and outreach tool. This booklet can be secured through the Sweetwater Baptist Association office. The booklets must be ordered by January 19, 2012 at a cost of 20 cents each. Churches within a community may wish to plan a revival together. This would be a strong witness within the community of the harmony among the people of God. In that case, pastors need to meet together soon to make the necessary arrangements.

The second recommendation approved by Messengers was to enter into a five year agreement with the Great River Association in Iowa. We plan to bring together churches in Iowa with the churches in our Association to partner together in providing spiritual growth principles to improve the "health" of the congregations in Iowa.

I will be going to Iowa in February to conduct a prayer retreat with the First Baptist Church, Bettendorf, Iowa. On that trip, I will meet with the leadership teams of several churches, and hope to finalize many of their requests for summer mission opportunities. Therefore, if you are interested in a summer mission trip to a church in Iowa, please contact the associational office.

The last recommendation accepted during the Annual Meeting was concerning Haiti. Presently, we are helping to feed, clothe, and house 32 orphans in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. The orphanage is operated by Pastor Geatan Alcegaire, founder and minister of the Foundation Yaveh Shamma for the Children Orphan in Haiti. We are asking families, churches, Sunday school classes, WMU groups or any group within a congregation to consider supporting a child at the orphanage for \$100.00 a month. The orphanage is located on approximately ¾ acre which is protected with a rock wall. In addition to the 32 children at the orphanage, church services are attended by approximately 100 people and over 200 children attend school at the facility on the property each week. The major concern is that the church and school are temporary structures: plastic tarp supported by wooden poles over dirt floors. The Messengers at the Annual Meeting voted to construct a multi-purpose building to house the church and school on the property being purchased by the Foundation Yaveh Shamma for the Children Orphan in Haiti. The construction will take place as the funding comes in from the churches of our Association. Therefore, we encourage a special offering be taken during the month of January, 2012 to fund this project. There are already enough funds to begin the first stage of

grade work and laying the foundation for the building. We know this will be a three stage building process. That work will begin in January and February of 2012. We are now looking for volunteers to work in masonry construction. If a member of your congregation is interested, please contact our office.

---Tony Rutherford

HOPE FOR HAITI: Since the devastating earthquake struck the nation of Haiti on January 12, 2010, our Association of Churches has responded in a great way. Many short-term relief teams have traveled to Haiti to offer assistance.



Our Association has voted to enter into a 5-year partnership with a local Haitian orphanage. The orphanage is operated by Baptist Pastor Alcegaire Gaetan. Pastor Gaetan, his wife and 2 children have taken in 32 orphans since the tragic earthquake. Pastor Gaetan has transformed their family home into an orphanage/house for the children. In order to care for each child, \$100.00 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 \$100.00 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 needed to serve on masonry/construction teams for the upcoming Haiti mission projects. These teams will do the grade work and lay the foundation for the church/school building that is being constructed for Pastor Gaetan Alcegaire and the Foundation Yaveh Shamma for the Children Orphan. Tentative dates for the projects are (Team 1) January 28th through February 4th and (Team 2) February 4th through February 11th.



Volunteers should check with their physicians to be sure that all required immunizations (such as Hepatitis A, B, C, Tetanus, Rabies, etc.) are up to date. You must go to the Knox County Health Department for typhoid injections and 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 projects are \$1300.00. A completed application and \$200.00 deposit should be submitted to the Sweetwater Baptist Association by January 10, 2012. You must have a valid passport to serve on these mission teams.

PASTOR AND WIFE CHRISTMAS BANQUET: The annual Pastor and Wives Christmas Banquet will be held on Friday evening, December 2nd 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 the number in your family attending to becky.jones@bellsouth.net or sweetwaterassoci@bellsouth.net by November 22nd.



CHRISTIAN COUNSELING IS NOW AVAILABLE IN OUR AREA!

Abundant Life Christian Counseling Center would like to announce their newest staff counselor, Macy Small, will now be available for sessions in Monroe County. Macy, and her husband Aaron, reside in Loudon County and are members of Fairview Baptist Tabernacle Church in Sweetwater. Macy is a graduate of Cornerstone University with a Master's Degree in Christian Counseling and has received certification and licensure through the National Conservative Christian Church. She will be ministering in our area to individuals, families, and churches for pre-marital and marital counseling, divorce recovery, and finding hope & freedom from substance abuse, grief, financial hardship, or depressiveness.



One-on-one sessions as well as classes may be scheduled by calling 865-414-3269. For more information about Abundant Life Christian Counseling Services, please visit www.abundantlife4me.org or you can contact the Sweetwater Baptist Association at 442-6604.

sickness or just took care of our many problems. But that day in July when Jody went from not feeling good...to an emergency ambulance ride to UT Hospital...to the Doctor telling her family, "we are sorry we did all we could"...to her being dead for 10 minutes... and now she is able to stand and tell what GOD did for her. She is truly a miracle!!



Then to top it all off was all that good food. So many good soups and chili and all the great desserts. Vonore ladies, you did great! Don't forget to call me about **my** UT Christmas tree!!!



We want to thank Pastor Dennis Cagle and Vonore Baptist Church for hosting the November WMU Quarterly Meeting. We are also thankful for over \$700.00 in offering received at the meeting for Shane

and Mitzi McBride, as they work with Lifesong for Orphans in Zambia. Thank you also to all of the WMU ladies that provided paper products for the Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes, Rainbow Acres, Knoxville. Rainbow Acres provides a loving, caring and helping facility for senior adults and developmentally disabled adults where they can call home. If you would like a mission project during the upcoming year, Rainbow Acres can always use pump hand soap and/or deodorant for the group home residents. These items can be brought by the Associational Office or you may contact the SBA Office at 442-6604 for further information.

Sweetwater Womens Baptist Association Union Missionary



WOW...AWESOME are just a few words to describe the WMU Quarterly Meeting at Vonore Baptist Church. When I walked in and saw all the Christmas trees, I knew it was going to be good. It was great to be back after missing the last WMU Quarterly Meeting. The Vonore ladies did a very touching memorial for Ms. Shirley Watson, who was very active in their WMU.



We presented a small gift to Murray's Baptist Church, WMU in memory of Mrs. Margaret Gray who had served as their WMU Director for over 30 years.

We want to thank our Associational WMU Acteen Director, Connie Gardner for planning an outstanding Acteens Day for our young ladies (7th graders and up). They had a great time of Spiritual learning... and even a chocolate fountain!

I hope everyone has a very blessed Thanksgiving. Don't forget the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and the upcoming Week of Prayer for International Missions. The next WMU Quarterly Meeting will be held at Notchey Creek Baptist Church on Monday evening, February 6th at 7:00 p.m.



Remember when it is your time to provide a birthday cake for the East Tennessee Health Care.

Here is what we have listed: November is Bethlehem, December is New Bethany; January is Ebenezer; and February is Rocky Springs. (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 Janet at East Tennessee Health Care at 442-3990 for more information.

If there was ever a song to sing just before the guest speaker, it would have been "Here Comes A Miracle". Jody Raper, our guest speaker for the evening, is a walking miracle. I know we all have had things happen in our lives that GOD has taken care of that we consider a miracle. When HE saved us or maybe healed us from

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.

All offerings received for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering are used to support Southern Baptist missionaries as they share the Gospel around the world.

YOUTH NEWS: After serving for the past three years on the Associational Youth Committee, I am honored to be serving as Chairman for the 2012 year.



Through much praying, hard work and dedication, we have some exciting events planned for the upcoming year. I would like to encourage all the Churches to come out and support your Association.

We pray and work hard to plan the events that take place and it is always a blessing to see that we have your support. When we all work as one, it makes us stronger. I know that over the years I have seen many of my youth saved at youth events. I hope you can recall this with your Church, as well. It is about fun, of course, but the main goal is for that lost soul to come to know Christ before it is too late.

If we can help in any way, call us. The committee this year consists of: Clayton Taylor from Chestua; Jarrod Johnson from Bethlehem; Chris Hollinghead from New Providence; Dennis Cagle from Vonore; and Bill Bradley from New Bethany. We hope that you will climb on board, start planning now and see what GOD has in store for us. Sincerely, Clayton Taylor, *Associational Youth Committee Chairman*

SEMINARY EXTENSION: Plans now are for a new Seminary Extension class to begin at the SBA Office on Tuesday, January 10, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. The course will be Old Testament Survey, Part II. This is a study of all the prophetic books of the Old Testament (Isaiah through Malachi) as well as the miscellaneous books known as the Writings (Psalms, Job, Proverbs, Ruth, Song of Songs, Ecclesiastes, Lamentations, Esther, Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah and I and II Chronicles.) Textbooks required are: *Old Testament Survey*, 2nd ed., Paul R. House and Eric Mitchell ISBN: 978-0-8054-4036-2 (\$39.99) and *A Survey of the Old Testament*, Andrew E. Hill and John H. Walton ISBN 978-0-310-28095-8 (\$49.99).



The cost for this course is usually \$217.98. However, we plan to scholarship a portion of the fees. The course fee will be \$50.00 for

those taking the class for credit (plus the cost of the books, if you wish to purchase them). The cost will be \$20.00 to audit the class. Please contact our office at 442-6604 if you should have any questions.

ASSOCIATIONAL EVANGELISM CONFERENCE, 2012: We want to personally invite you to attend our 2012 Sweetwater Baptist Association Evangelism Conference. The meeting will be held on **Monday, January 23rd**. 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. Don Wilton. Dr. Wilton is the Pastor of First Baptist Church, Spartanburg, South Carolina. Dr. Wilton has a strong commitment to the local church, a love for the Word of God and a passion to reach the lost for Jesus Christ. It is obvious that God's hand is on Dr. Wilton.

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. Music "cd's" will be available at the Associational Office. Please stop by the SBA Office at your convention to pick up a copy of the "cd" and feel free to make additional copies.

Our theme this year is "**Revive Us Again**". This is in preparation for the Simultaneous Revivals scheduled at our churches for the month of April, 2012. Prior to revival services, churches will prayer walk their communities and distribute invitations to church/revival services. Just imagine the impact of every church working together to share the Gospel in every home across our Association!

This Evangelism Conference will encourage you as a pastor and/or leader in your church, and help us keep our focus on the main thing which 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 23rd**.

2012 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 is also available on our website at www.sweetwaterbaptistassociation.com.



VBS SAMPLER KITS: We have just received exciting news that LifeWay's 2012 VBS Sampler Kits, *Amazing Wonders Aviation* (based on Psalm 147:5), and *Club VBS SpaceQuest* (based on John 14:6) 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 2012 order for materials and supplies, or even a team of VBS workers. We are praying for our churches and for your Vacation Bible Schools.

EVERY BELIEVER A WITNESS
Training Clinic
For Pastors, Staff, Church Leadership, Outreach Leaders
Tuesday, February 7, 2012
First Baptist Church, Sweetwater
 Meal 5:45 p.m. Fellowship Hall
Dennis Nunn, Conference Leader
\$20.00 material fee

Please contact the Sweetwater Baptist Association Office at 442-6604 or visit our website at www.sweetwaterbaptistassociation.com for further information. Reservations required.

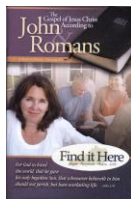
EVERY BELIEVER A WITNESS:

Training Clinic will be held on **Tuesday, February 7th, at 5:45 p.m.** at First Baptist Church, Sweetwater. This revolutionary new evangelism ministry is designed to motivate and train Sunday morning attendees to actively share their faith, "create and maintain an on-going culture of witnessing and evangelism". The training clinic will be led by Dennis Nunn, Founder and President of Every Believer a Witness. Pastors, staff, youth leaders, church leadership and outreach leaders are encouraged to attend. The cost is \$20.00 for materials. Reservations will be required. Please contact the Sweetwater Baptist Association Office at 442-6604 or visit our website at www.sweetwaterbaptistassociation.com for further information.



REACHING ACROSS TENNESSEE:

Has your church committed to participate in the Simultaneous Revivals scheduled for April, 2012? Do you sense a need for revival in your church or congregation? Do you feel the need for revival in your community, home or workplace? We pray that your church has committed to be part of the Simultaneous Revivals scheduled for April, 2012.



In preparation for April revivals, much prayer, equipping, sowing and harvesting will be done. Congregations will be planning activities and

opportunities to share the Gospel. Many churches will be prayer walking their communities. Some churches will be distributing the booklet, "Find It Here, The Gospel of John/Romans" in homes throughout their neighborhoods. The booklets are 20 cents each, and orders for the booklets must be received at the SBA Office by **January 19th**.

Please prayerfully seek how God would lead you and your congregation to be part of this great evangelistic effort for Christ.



YOUTH (GRADES 7-COLLEGE) ... THE QUESTION: As we prepare for April Simultaneous Revivals, we want to invite the young people of our churches (grades 7-college) to join together to be part of an Associational Youth Worship Team. William Bell, Music Director at Vonore Baptist Church will be leading our young people as they present, *The Question*, a dramatic musical portrayal of the Gospel. The tentative date for the performance is March 24, 2012.

The Question is a live multimedia event created as a vehicle for evangelistic outreach. This presentation incorporates music with stunning video backdrops, humorous yet powerful dramatic sketches, and video segments that include a personal testimony from Franklin Graham.

The Question tells the story of Ian, a student who has known his share of trouble. His parents have divorced; he is bitter and rebellious. In his quest to ease the pain, Ian has explored risky and self-destructive behaviors. Alarmed, Ian's mother brings him to meetings of the church youth group, where his bitterness gets the attention of the other group members. The Christian students realize Ian needs help, but they are intimidated by his attitude, and insecure about their abilities to share their faith. As Ian's tough front begins to soften, his new friends come to realize that with the proper preparation they really can share their faith and reflect the love of Christ to others.

Plan now for the young people in your church to be part of *The Question*. Please contact the Associational Office at 442-6604 if your youth would like to be part of this musical/drama or for further information.



NEW WEBSITE: Our associational website has recently been updated. Please take a minute to check out the new site and let us know what you think. We will continue making some changes and additions over the next few months, so let us know what information you'd like to see included. The address has not changed, so check us out at www.sweetwaterbaptistassociation.com.



LEARN TO READ: If you or someone you know needs help learning to read or if you would like to volunteer to help tutor an adult learning to read, please call Patricia Hinton at 423-420-1904 ext. 1840 or email her at ABLEformonroecounty@gmail.com.

ROCKY SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH:

We have had a busy and blessed fall and are looking forward to the holiday season. On Sunday, September 25, eight people were baptized in the Tellico River. Thank God for new members added to our congregation. We also want to say a special thank you to all who gave to help the WMU meet and exceed their Golden State Missions offering goal. We also had a wonderful time of fellowship at the annual hayride at the Atkins' farm. Thank you to the Atkins family for hosting us again this year. We would like to invite everyone to our upcoming holiday services. Sunday, November 20, 5:00 pm: Harvest Dinner (With Singing and Testimony); Sunday, December 4, 6:00 pm: Adult Drama "Christmas Comes to Detroit Louie"; December 11: Children's Programs, The 6-11 Year Olds: "For the Glory of God" (a musical); The Preschoolers will present a short skit; Christmas Morning, December 25, 11:00 am: Worship Service (Evening service will be dismissed). We are praying you have a wonderful, blessed Christmas and Happy New Year!
--Kim Williamson



VONORE BAPTIST CHURCH:

Everyone is invited to join us for our special holiday services.

November 20, 6:00 pm: Thanksgiving Dinner & Service in the Family Life Center; November 27, 6:00 pm: Hanging of the Greens Service; December 4, 6:00 pm: Children's Christmas Program; December 18, 8:45 am and 11:00 am: Adult Celebration Choir. --Paulette Summey



TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH:

We would like to thank all of the preachers who helped our church during the loss of our Pastor, Darrell Franklin. We would also like to thank the preachers who helped us during the search process for a new Pastor. We thank God for sending

Rev. Casey King as our Pastor. We are thankful for everyone who prayed for us and offered help and support during a very difficult time in our church. --Katherine Hill



NOTCHEY CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH:

Hallelujah Night was held at Notchey Creek Baptist Church on October 30th. An estimated 700 people attended this one-night event and our outreach teams

reportedly obtained near 200 prospective families to be contacted through our on-going GROW program.

Our Children's Christmas Program will be held on Sunday evening, December 4th at 6:00 p.m. Pastor Gale Miller and the church invite everyone to join us.

RURAL VALE BAPTIST CHURCH:

On December 23rd, our Pastor, James Atkins will celebrate his 85th Birthday. We love Pastor

James and would like to wish him a Happy Birthday. He has been pastoring churches for many, many years and has been with us at Rural Vale for over 19 years now. He is the oldest serving pastor in our association and we are so happy to call him our Pastor. --Misti Pike



COMPROMISE BAPTIST CHURCH: On May 17, 2011, Lorene Umphrey, passed away. Lorene was 90 years old and the last surviving Charter Member of Compromise, which was organized in 1941.



BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH: We are trying to help the new music teacher at Tellico Plains Jr. High School with supplies for her classroom. We are collecting music equipment and instruments. If your or your church can help, please contact Wendi Stakely at 442-2848.

Everyone is invited to join us on **November 27th at 6:30 pm** for a special Christmas service. "Life Wide Open" will be performing and **Dwight Singleton** will be bringing the message. This is a free event and will be a great night of worship at Bethlehem Baptist Church.



Life Wide Open

ISLAND CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH:

Everyone is invited to join us on **Friday, December 30th at 7:00 pm** for a special concert. Award winning Southern Gospel Singer and Songwriter, **Squire Parsons**, will be in concert at Island Creek. Squire Parsons has written many songs, including "Sweet Beulah Land", "He Came to Me", "I Call it Home", "I Sing Because" and his latest song, "I'm Still Here". This is a free concert (a love offering will be taken), so please make plans to join us for this special night of worship and song.





UNITY BAPTIST CHURCH:
We recently celebrated Pastor Appreciation Day at Unity. We are very thankful for our



Pastor, John Butler and his wife, Shirley. We also appreciate Brother Darwin Nelson who has filled in while John has been recuperating. (Also pictured: Randall Smallwood, Charles Mangis, Helen Owen, Tommy Owen, and C.A. Moses).

SHOAL CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH:

God is still doing great things at Shoal Creek. From July through October, we have seen 16 professions of faith. Several of these have been through our jail ministry. We have baptized 23 people and have 22 join our church. We are getting very close to beginning our building expansion project. Please help us pray for this project.



We are very excited about our Christmas Play this year. The program will be on December 16th and 17th at 7:00 pm and on Sunday, December 18th at 6:00 pm. Everyone is invited to attend.

Our Food Pantry is open on the third Saturday of each month from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm. Also, be sure to listen to our radio broadcast every Saturday at 2:00 pm on 1220 AM. "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Phil. 4:13

MT. ZION BAPTIST CHURCH:

September saw a new kick off for our Team Kids program to go along with the kids return to school. The youth in Team Kids are greeted each Wednesday night with a meal prepared for them by some caring ladies of our Church, then taught by others, and always enjoy a wonderful time with each other. We had our "Trunk or Treat" for them on the 26th of Oct. which was a fun filled evening for all of us.



Sunday, October 9, we had a "dual" purpose Pastor's Appreciation dinner. Dual purpose as it also served as a birthday dinner for Dennis, whose big day was Monday the 10th.

October was also the month our WMU set a goal to collect 500 jars of peanut butter to donate to the Good Shepherd. The sad fact is many people in our area are hungry and this agency can't seem to keep enough peanut butter so our ladies stepped up to help. They DID meet their goal, and exceeded it by 5 jars! Mt. Zion is fortunate

to have these ladies - because of their efforts backpacks, blankets, coats, and food has been collected and helped so many.

Sunday, Nov. 6th we held Veteran's Day service where the VFW and Ladies Auxiliary conducted a program that honored all Veteran's, and allowed us to show appreciation to all of Mt. Zion's own that have served their country. This service was followed by our Harvest Dinner. Tuesday, November 22 beginning at 7:00 PM we will be having our 5th annual "Thanksgiving Hallelujah Celebration". This service is a gathering of area churches and is held at Mt. Zion each year. Churches that participate with us are Citico, Ebenezer, Howards Chapel, and Mt. Pleasant. This year we will also have Tevis Springs and Lakeside joining us. Lakesides' Pastor, Carl Croft will deliver the message. Everyone is invited to attend, and bring finger foods for a time of fellowship after the service. Sunday night, November 27 we have *The Jamerson's* coming for our monthly singing service. --Sheila Miller

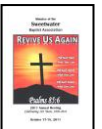
Chairs

CHAIRS: We have several wooden chairs for give-away to any church that would like to come pick them up at the Associational Office. Please call the Sweetwater Baptist Association at 442-6604 for further information.

THE MESSENGER: Would you like to receive our monthly 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.



ATTENTION CHURCH CLERKS: This is just a reminder that the 2011 Minutes of the 181st Annual Meeting of the Sweetwater Baptist Association are back from the printers and are available in our office. Therefore, if your church ordered the 2011 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 181st Annual Meeting are also available on our website at www.sweetwaterbaptistassociation.com



2011 SPORTSMEN'S DAY: Our annual Sportsmen's Day was held at Island Creek Baptist Church on Oct. 15th. God blessed us with beautiful weather and over 500 people came out to enjoy the day. We had several events to enjoy, including 4-wheeler rides, archery courses, skeet shooting, fly-fishing lessons and more. We were honored to have several professional fishermen as our guest speakers. Rev. Matthew Johnson delivered a challenging message 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 Mike Williams and Island Creek Baptist Church for hosting Sportsmen's Day, to New Bethany Baptist Church for all the work they put into the day and to Denny Moore for all his work in preparing food for everyone. 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



December, 2011

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

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 SBA Pastors and Wives Christmas Banquet, Vonore Baptist Church, Family Life Center, 6:30 p.m.	3
4 Week of Prayer for International Missions and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering	5 Pastor Conf. 10:00 a.m.	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 Pastor Conf. 10:00 a.m.	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 NO Pastor Conf.	20 Winter Break, NO School MCBE, Dec 20-Jan 3 Office Closed Holiday	21 Office Closed Holiday	22 Office Closed Holiday	23 Office Closed Holiday	24 Christmas Eve
25 Christmas Day	26 No Pastor's Conference Office Closed Holiday	27 Office Closed Holiday	28 Office Closed Holiday	29 Office Closed Holiday	30 Office Closed Holiday	31 New Year's Eve

January, 2012

“I will not leave you comfortless, I will come to you.” --John 14:18

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 New Years Day	2 NO Pastor Conf. Office Closed Holiday NO School-MCBE	3 NO School-MCBE	4	5	6	7
8	9 Pastor Conf. 10:00 a.m. Youth Committee Meeting, 4:00 p.m.	10 Seminary Extension Class-Old Testament, Part 2 6:30 p.m.	11	12	13	14
15	16 Pastor Conf. 10:00 a.m. Disaster Relief Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m. NO School-MCBE	17	18	19	20	21
22	23 Pastor Conf. 10:00 a.m. Associational Evangelism Conference, Notchey Creek, Dr. Don Wilton, 6:45 p.m.	24 YBS Team Planning Meeting, 7:00 p.m.	25	26	27	28 Tentative dates - Mission Project 1. Port-au-Prince, Haiti Jan. 28-Feb. 4
29	30 Pastor Conf. 10:00 a.m.	31 East TN Healthcare WMU Birthday Cake January: Ebenezer				

Our Office will be closed through January 2nd 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



Information for the next newsletter must be received by January 10, 2012.

Sweetwater Baptist Association
696 Anderson Street
Madisonville, TN 37354

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ASSOCIATIONAL OFFICERS

MODERATOR Mike Williams	VICE MODERATOR Mike DeLand	Mission Committee Steven McDonald, Chairman
Pastor Advisor Frank Hicks	Church Growth & Leadership Director Frank Crawford	Marriage and Family Director
Disaster Relief Co-Directors Tony Curtis & Bill Westphal	Historian Co-Directors Kay James & Angie Johnson	Media Ministry Director Betty Wolfe
Men's Ministry Co-Directors Clint Brackett & Randall Patton	Music Director Phillip Johnson	Prayer Ministry Director Svitlana Self
RA Director Phil Roy	WMU Director Audrey Stephens	Vacation Bible School Director Katrina Umphrey
Preschool/Mission Friends Director Savonna Chambers	Girls/GA Director Michelle Spradlin	Acteens Director Connie Gardner
Annuity Committee Director of Missions	Bivocational Pastors Council Jim Manis, Chairman	Christian Life Committee Darrell Cardin, Chairman
Committee on Nominations Chris Farmer, Chairman	Constitution Committee Vance Bivens, Chairman	Evangelism Committee Dwayne Leming, Chairman
Finance Committee Bill Johnson, Chairman	Personnel Committee Jim Stakely, Chairman	Program Committee Mitch Isbill, Chairman
Scholarship Committee Rhonda Sarshuri, Chairperson	Trustees Joe Saffles, Chairman	Youth Council Clayton Taylor, Chairman

NEWS FROM AROUND THE ASSOCIATION

Welcome New Pastors:

Mt. Calvary Gerald Lynn

Director of Mission Visits:

Rocky Springs, Altoona, Shady Grove, Southside (Newport), Antioch, Cane Creek, Rural Vale, Vonore, Williamsburg, Shoal Creek, Chestua, Community, Glenlock, Old Sweetwater, Haiti, Oak Grove, Fairview Tabernacle, Towee Falls, Mt. Zion, Citico, Cedar Valley, Hopewell Springs, Cedar Fork, New Providence, Compromise, Piney Grove

Please pray for our churches without pastors:

Fairview, Glenlock, Gregory's Chapel, Hilltop, Oak Grove, Shelton Grove

