



Links

Office Hours
Monday thru Friday
8:30 am—4:30 pm
Closed for Lunch from
12:30—1:30 pm

April 2019

Monthly Newsletter of McMinn-Meigs Association of Baptists

Volume 19, Issue 4

Mark Your Calendar!

April

April 1—Pastor & Preachers Fellowship, *Baptist Center, 7:00 pm*

April 5-7—Missions Get-Together/ Connection, *Gatlinburg*

April 7—Cooperative Program Sunday

April 9—McMinn-Meigs Association VBS Clinic, *First Baptist Athens, 6:00 pm*

April 12-14—RA Wilderness Challenge, *Boxwell Reservation, Lebanon*

April 14—McMinn-Meigs Association Bible Drill, *East Athens Baptist Church, 2:00 pm*

April 16—Executive Board Meeting, *Baptist Center, 7:00 pm*

April 19—Good Friday, *Baptist Office Closed*

April 21—Easter

April 23—Packing Used Literature, *Baptist Center—9:00 am*

April 25—ReFocus, *Baptist Center, Time TBA*

April 27—Regional Youth Bible Drill and Speakers Tournament, *Children's Bible Drill, Broadway Baptist Church, Maryville*

May

Associational Missions Emphasis Month
Mother's Day Offering

May 2—National Day of Prayer

May 4—Camp Cherokee Clean-up Day

May 6—Pastor & Preachers Fellowship, *Baptist Center, 7:00 pm*

May 12—Mother's Day Offering for Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes

May 19-26—Associational Emphasis Week

May 27—Memorial Day, *Baptist Office closed*



Attention VBS lovers: Save the Date!

April 9, 2019

First Baptist Athens



Get ready for your *Amazing Encounter with Jesus* at the VBS planning clinic! Dinner @ 5:30 pm ♦ Conference begins @ 6:00 pm.

Classes provided: 3 year/Pre-K; Kindergarten; 1st/2nd Grade; 3rd/4th Grade; 5th/6th Grade; Youth; Crafts; Snack/Rec; Music; Missions; Security; Pastors and Directors.

Please register by April 4th with Kathy at the associational office so we will know how many will eat and which classes they will attend, so we can have materials properly prepared for them.

Children's/Youth Bible Drill

The Associational Bible Drill will be on Sunday, April 14th at East Athens Baptist Church at 2:00 pm.

The 2019 Southeast State Regional Drill will be held on Saturday, April 27th at Broadway Baptist Church, Maryville.



2018-2019 Cooperative Program Allocation Budget

This allocation budget represents anticipated gifts forwarded to the SBC.

\$194,000,000

	73.20%
World Missions Ministries	
International Mission Board (50.41%)	
North American Mission Board (22.79%)	
	22.16%
Theological Education Ministries	
Seminaries (21.92%)	
Library and Archives (.24%)	
	2.99%
Executive Committee and SBC Operating Budget	
	1.65%
Christian Ethics and Religious Liberty Ministries	
Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission	



Cooperative Program—The Heart of Southern Baptist Missions and Ministries

What does it mean to be Southern Baptist? I am reminded that even some of us who have been Southern Baptists for much of their lives may not see the big picture.

There are over 47,000 churches in fellowship together as Southern Baptists. And while large churches get a lot of the attention, we are still a convention made up primarily of small churches. The average church will have 80-100 people in attendance on Sunday morning.

I have heard numerous comments about Southern Baptists, such as: "Nashville tells every preacher what to preach." Or, "Nashville tells us what to believe, or what a church should do." One of the things we need to remember about being Southern Baptist is that our relationships between churches, associations, state conventions and the national convention is completely cooperative, with the local church as the ultimate authority. Neither the associations nor state and national conventions have the power to tell any church how to function. We work together in cooperative agreement to do kingdom work.

As I see it, there are three things that are priorities as Southern Baptists:

We are Christ-focused. As followers of Jesus Christ, we believe that there is no other way to be saved than through faith in Christ. In John 14:6 Jesus makes it

clear that there is no other way to get to Heaven. We stand firm on this truth and proclaim this message to the world, so that every person can have the chance to hear this truth and be saved.

We are also Bible-based. Southern Baptists believe the Bible is God's Word. Scripture as it is understood and interpreted by each church is the basis for guiding what and how it does ministry.

We are Missions-minded. Maybe the greatest accomplishment of Southern Baptists in our almost 175 year history is the impact we have made in the world through our missions efforts. The backbone to mission work in the last 100 years has been the Cooperative Program. This is a giving program where each church gives into one channel and the money is then divided to the different entities as determined by the state convention and SBC budgets voted on each year at the annual conventions. Add in the annual missions offerings, such as the Lottie Moon Offering and the Annie Armstrong offering, and we are able to do missions around the world.

At this moment the churches giving to the Cooperative Program and/or the missions offerings are supporting 3,671 missionaries in foreign countries, and 5,097 missionaries in North America. The International Mission Board estimates that

it takes about \$60,000/yr. to keep a missionary on the field. Obviously, it would be beyond the ability of most churches to send a missionary as an individual church, but working together we are able to send thousands.

One entity that does not get much of the Cooperative Program funds is the local association. Our association receives less than \$5,000 annually from the Tennessee Baptist Convention. McMinn-Meigs Association's operating funds are provided by the churches in the association.

Throughout the book of Acts we see churches working together to be on mission carrying out the commission Jesus gave us. May we continue to work together to carry the message of Jesus Christ to our own neighborhoods as well as to the far reaches of the world.



Refocus Preview
with Rob Peters,
April 25, (time
TBA)

ReFocus provides pastors with tools to assess their church and to restore vibrancy, purpose and growth to their ministry. Participants will discover, in very detailed and honest terms, a church's strengths, weaknesses, and potential as they seek to disciple believers and reach the lost.

Mission Awareness leads to Mission Involvement

by Judy Luck, Association WMU Director

There is an old adage: "**He who cares not for the past, will love little his future.**"

With that in mind, starting with Miss Annie, each month we'll discover some of the Women Leaders from the past in missions and what a rich heritage we have. The first one is Annie Armstrong. At the 1888 meeting of women during the Southern Baptist Convention, speaking to hesitant women, Miss Annie took the chair and boldly said "What are your marching orders?" She became the first WMU Corresponding Secretary from 1888-1906 without pay. One of her co-workers called her "Strong Arm" not because of a 'ramrod spirit' but because she worked with the strength of thousands. Her life was invested in the "little things" like

mission education, tithing, protection of missionaries' children, consistent prayer for missions, a successful publishing business, expansion of Southern Baptist territory, organization of black Baptist women and ministries to immigrants, just to name a few of the "little things". Oh, to be strong in just one or two areas like mission education or consistent prayer for missions would be my desire. God had His Hand on her. So, one question from Miss Annie, "What is the marching order God has given you?" Each one of us will have a different answer but each will be important.

Packing used literature - Fourth (4th) Tuesday, April 23rd, 9 am at the Association Office. Bring in your used literature so others can reap the benefit of Bible Study.

Holy Land Tour Planned for 2020

Pastors, deacons, and/or church leaders, would you and your wife be interested in traveling to Israel January 22-31, 2020? The Sweetwater Baptist Association invites you to join us to be part of the *2020 Tour of Israel*. Church leaders, you may want to give this some consideration for a *Pastor Appreciation* or *Pastor Christmas* gift for next year.

Tony Rutherford, Director of Missions of the Sweetwater Baptist Association, will serve as the tour director for the trip. He will also be in attendance at the next Executive Board Meeting of the McMinn-Meigs Baptist Association.

This 2020 tour is open to anyone interested in being part of the group. Spots are still available! The total cost of the tour is \$3700.00 per person, and monthly payments can be negotiated. Please contact the SBA Office at 423-442-6604 for additional information.

CHURCH CONTRIBUTIONS

Church Name	Current	YTD	Church Name	Current	YTD	Church Name	Current	YTD
Antioch	140.89	881.37	Etowah, First	0.00	250.00	Pope Avenue	0.00	585.45
Athens, First	1,500.00	9,000.00	Good Hope	150.00	900.00	Riceville, First	0.00	262.68
Bethel Springs	0.00	0.00	Goodsprings	222.34	2,077.41	Rockview	0.00	0.00
Bethsadia	0.00	0.00	Hiwassee	0.00	0.00	Rocky Mount	150.00	450.00
Brookhill	0.00	100.00	Idlewild	220.00	660.00	Rogers Creek	94.00	627.82
Calhoun, First	400.00	1,200.00	Lakeside	65.82	869.84	Sanford	0.00	1,500.00
Calvary, Etowah	50.00	250.00	Lakeview	180.70	916.80	Shiloh	400.00	1,200.00
Calvary Missionary	25.00	150.00	Manilla Chapel	0.00	200.00	Short Creek	337.37	1,864.64
Central	926.49	3,465.35	Marshall Hill	100.00	500.00	South Liberty	0.00	0.00
Clay Hill	0.00	60.00	McMahan Calvary	212.76	909.26	Stephensville	0.00	0.00
Clear Springs	432.03	2,337.82	Mount Harmony, Niota	411.00	2,951.00	Ten Mile	114.75	615.40
Clearwater	0.00	0.00	Mount Harmony, Riceville	48.51	257.43	Union Grove	0.00	250.00
Coghill	175.00	875.00	Mount Pisgah	356.19	1,786.25	Union Hill	198.00	1,087.00
Cottonport	0.00	413.68	Mount Verd	0.00	100.00	Valley Road	0.00	300.00
Decatur, First	648.78	3,470.77	New Beginnings	0.00	0.00	Valley View	0.00	795.00
Dixon Avenue	110.00	660.00	New Bethel	0.00	0.00	Walnut Grove	262.61	1,258.00
Double Springs	50.00	300.00	Niota, First	0.00	0.00	West End	348.90	1,665.96
Eastanallee	100.00	600.00	North Athens	0.00	200.00	West View	123.36	593.36
East Athens	1,496.02	5,832.30	Oak Grove	302.00	2,103.00	Wildwood	549.03	2,675.34
East Niota	197.50	987.50	Old Salem	312.30	1,557.75	Zion Hill	0.00	400.00
East View	0.00	0.00	Pisgah	1,400.69	3,710.37			
Englewood, First	847.50	5,085.00	Pond Hill	0.00	0.00			
						Total Receipts	13,659.54	71,748.55

Contributions received after March 22nd will be reflected in next month's report.

April Celebrations

Birthday's

- 03....*Hoyt Melton*..... Valley View
- 06....*Vivian Graves*..... Lakeside
- 08....*David Lones*..... Goodsprings
- 09....*Jason Robertson*..... East Athens
- 11....*Shane White*..... West End
- 15....*Bo Coleman*..... Hiwassee
- 18....*Shirley Melton*..... Valley View
- 19....*Joe Hatcher*..... Coghill

Anniversaries

- 25....*Titus & Ginger Snyder*.....Oak Grove

Church/Association Anniversaries

- William Beasley*..... First Baptist Riceville...2 years
- Greg Watson*..... Manilla Chapel.....3 years
- Fred Cunningham*.. Ten Mile..... 6 years
- Keith Whited*..... West View..... 11 years

Remember in prayer our churches without Pastors: First Baptist Athens, First Baptist Calhoun, Lakeview, Marshall Hill, Old Salem and Short Creek.

Pastors & Preachers Fellowship

April 1, 2019 ♦ 7:00 pm
Rev. Travis Shaver, Pastor of Bethsadia Baptist Church will be the speaker.

Church News

- Our sympathy to the family of **Mrs. Oran (Virginia) Creasman.**
- Our sympathy to **Rev. Michael Coleman** and family during the loss of his Father.
- **Eastanallee Baptist Church** welcomes their new Pastor Dr. Richard Seggo who began his ministry there on March 10, 2019.
- **New Bethel Baptist Church** welcomes their new Pastor, Rev. Heath Pickel who began his ministry there on February 17, 2019.

- **The 2018 Annual Minutes** are ready and can be picked up during regular office hours!
- **East Athens Baptist Church** is seeking a full-time Pastor of Families. Send resume to: **jrobertson423@me.com.**
- **First Baptist Calhoun** is seeking a Senior Pastor. Send resume to P.O. Box 175, Calhoun, TN 37309.
- **Don't forget to Recycle your old Sunday School Literature.** We also take Christian Books, Bibles and Devotionals (Our Daily Bread, Open Windows, etc.). **Do not bring Missions Mosaic or Mature Living.**

BCM Lunch Schedule

- April 4—First Baptist Etowah
- April 11—First Baptist Englewood
- April 18—Mount Harmony Niota

McMinn-Meigs Association of Baptists Pastors Conference

Meets every Monday morning at 10:00 am at the Baptist Center.

Eastanallee is celebrating 200 years!

Join us on Sunday, April 7th at 10:00 am for our Bicentennial Celebration. Governor Bill Lee will be the guest speaker during the morning service. Everyone is invited to attend.

Pastors Prayer Meeting

Every Thursday at the Baptist Center ♦ 12:00 noon

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Camp Cherokee

- Don't forget to schedule your youth or church retreat at Camp. Dates are filling up fast!. Call 745-2248 to reserve your dates today!
- **Camp Clean-up Day** will be on **Saturday, May 4th**. Looking for a project for your youth group? At the beginning of each year, the camp must be "made ready" for the camping season. All cabins, bathrooms, and the kitchen/dining hall must be cleaned, the grounds cleared of debris, leaves, fallen trees etc. For more information about what to bring or what you can do, please contact Mike Bernard at 507-7135.
- **Camp Cherokee needs a bus! If your church has one that could be used Monday—Friday during our Day Camps please contact Mike Bernard at 507-7135 as soon as possible.**
- Dates for Camp Cherokee have been set! They are:
Youth Camp—July 1- 5 (grades 7-11)
Children's Day Camp—July 8-12 (grades 1-6)
July 15-19 (grades 1-6)

Registration forms can be found online at:

www.mcminnmeigsbaptists.org on the Camp Cherokee page!

Want to work at camp this summer? You can find the application on the Camp Cherokee page!



It's that time of year when Christian Builders "ramps up". Actually, we build ramps year round, in the cold and the heat. Some of you may not know how Christian Builders is funded. As for the ramp materials, as much as we can, we ask the clients to apply for a grant from Mid TN United Cerebral Palsy. They administrate federal grants for ramps. However, we build ramps at times that cost more than the grant provides. Then we dip into our own coffers to make up the difference.

There is also the cost of our tool maintenance, which is not covered by grant funds, and also the grab bars and railings we do for the handicapped.

Christian Builders does not have a line item in the association budget. We operate solely on donations. We have some 60 something churches in our association. If every church would consider a \$100 donation to Christian Builders we would add \$6000 to our funds, and we could use that yearly if you would consider an annual gift. Some churches can do more than that.

As always, if you know of a disabled person that needs a ramp, don't hesitate to tell them about us. And, consider volunteering to help! We can use skilled and unskilled people. God Bless!

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