



Links

August 2017

Monthly Newsletter of McMinn-Meigs Association of Baptists

Volume 17, Issue 8

Mark Your Calendar!

August

Shoes for Orphan Souls

August 7

Pastor's & Preacher's Fellowship, Baptist Center, 7:00 pm

August 14

Prayer Conference, East Athens Baptist Church, 7:00 pm

August 27

Baptist and Reflector Day

August 28

Associational Sunday School Conference, First Baptist Church Madisonville, 6:30 pm—9:00 pm

August 29

Associational Sunday School Conference, North Cleveland Baptist Church, Cleveland, 6:30 pm—9:00 pm

September

Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions

September 4

Labor Day, Baptist Office Closed

September 3-10

Week of Prayer for State Missions/Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions

September 11

Pastor's & Preacher's Fellowship, Baptist Center, 7:00 pm

Building our Spiritual Foundation



Speaker: Rev. Don Pierson

East Athens Baptist Church

August 14, 2017 ♦ 7:00 pm

Don Pierson is pastor at Stewart's Chapel Baptist Church in Flintville, TN. He has served as an IMB missionary to Belize and as a staff member for the Tennessee Baptist Convention. Don has a wonderful insight into prayer and spiritual growth. He will motivate you to grow and develop your walk with God.



Conferences for pastors and staff, directors and coordinators, adult, youth, children, and preschool teachers and leaders.

Schedule:

5:30 Meal (if purchased)
6:30 Opening Rally
7:00-9:00 Breakout Sessions

Contact Mark Miller (mmiller@tnbaptist.org) for further information.

August 28, 2017

**First Baptist Church Madisonville
323 Tellico Street ♦ Madisonville
6:30 pm—9:00 pm**

August 29, 2017

**North Cleveland Baptist Church
2815 N Ocoee Street ♦ Cleveland
6:30 pm—9:00 pm**

Remember in prayer our churches without Pastors:

Bethsadia, First Baptist Etowah, Marshall Hill, New Bethel and Pope Avenue.

Attention Church Clerks:

The Annual Church Profiles (ACP's) will be ready for pick-up on August 10th during regular office hours!

Shoes for Orphan Souls



SHOES FOR ORPHAN SOULS

McMinn-Meigs Association of Baptists is collecting shoes, socks and shoelaces for Shoes for Orphan Souls during the month of August. Donated items should be for children and teens and due to customs regulations, all items must be brand new.

In order to sort and count before delivery to Chattanooga, we ask that you turn in your items by August 28, 2017.

All donated items must be BRAND NEW!

Why are so many churches today declining or struggling to hang on? We try to find all kinds of reasons from the style of music in our worship services, the preaching ability of the pastor, or the lack of children or young families in the congregation.

What are we excited about? In a few weeks, some of you will be excited because football season will have started. Some of us could bump into a complete stranger out in public and spend the next 30 minutes talking about UT football, the latest fishing trip, the home project you just finished, or that great vacation you just had at the beach.

I believe there is a simpler explanation for the state of many of our churches: we are not excited about our faith. I am not talking about having a rousing worship experience or spiritual "feeling." I am looking at the reality that many of those who sit in our pews are seemingly not concerned for their own spiritual condition or that of their neighbor. When was the last time you talked to someone about what Jesus has done in your life? Who did you meet in the past month and come away with concern about that person's eternal destiny?

Many churches have, in practice, said that the door is open if they want to come hear about it. Whereas the world is looking at many of our churches and do not see anything they need from us. They see Christians who act just like a lot of the people they know who don't go to church. We don't live differently, dress differently or talk differently. They see Christians who are just as negative about the world situation as everyone else around them. They see people who also are living without peace.

Have you talked to someone and become so burdened for the lost in McMinn or Meigs County that you couldn't stand it? If the average is true in our Association, there are somewhere around 35,000 – 40,000 people who live here and do not know Jesus as their Savior. Why are we not concerned about this in our churches?

Thom Rainer made the following observations after a detailed study of churches and evangelism. He says, "A non-evangelistic church twenty years ago typically did poorly in evangelism. A non-evangelistic church today is typically doing really, really, really poorly today. ... and Evangelism in the [evangelistic] churches is a clear priority. I'm stating the obvious here. But many churches are not doing the obvious."

Matthew 5 says we are the light of the world. We are to shine our light into darkness. Have you ever been in a place so dark you couldn't get around? I was with a group taking a short cut through the woods one night. The person in front had a flashlight. The rest of us were following close behind. All of a sudden he decided to turn the light out. We immediately found ourselves in almost complete darkness. No one wanted to move because we didn't know what was out there one foot away. When he decided to turn the light back on it was a welcome relief. Just a little bit of light made everything better.

The people living in darkness need to see the light. Many do not even realize they are living in darkness.

Part of the answer is for us to get closer to our Heavenly Father. August 14 we will have Don Pierson here for one evening to speak to us about Building Our Spiritual Foundation. I believe we don't share our faith because we have little exciting to share. If we can't get ourselves where we need to be, shining the light in darkness will not be difficult. We should desire to know God better each day. The more we become like Him, the more impact we will have for Him in the lost world. I hope each church will have several at this meeting to begin the journey. I hope to see you there.

Bro. Mike

August Celebrations

Celebrating Birthdays

- 16....*Stanley Liner*Lakeview
- 21....*Mike Bernard*.....Central
- 23....*Kathy Fain*.....Association Staff
- 31....*Renae Campbell*.....South Liberty

Celebrating Anniversaries

- 13....*Jason & Tina Clark* First Baptist Athens
- 15....*Larry & Kathy Fain* Association Staff
- 22....*David & Beverly Lones*.... Goodsprings
- 25....*Terry & Renae Campbell*. South Liberty

Church/Association Anniversaries

- Tony Crisp*..... Eastanallee..... 5 years
- Jeff Blanchette* Calvary Etowah 11 years
- Larry Johnson*..... Cottonport..... 15 years

Church News

- Our sympathy to **Rev. Lary Johnson** and family during the loss of his Father.
- **Lakeside Baptist Church** welcomes their new Pastor, Rev. Earl Graves who began his ministry there on July 16, 2017.
- **First Baptist Riceville** is seeking a part-time Music Director. Please send resume to: Sam Gentry ♦ PO Box 3344 ♦ Riceville, TN 37370
- **Short Creek Baptist Church** is seeking a Youth Pastor. Send resumes to Rev. Victor King, 1190 County Road 750, Athens, TN 37303 or call him at 920-7365.



Reminder:
Each church needs to fill out a VBS report, regardless of the curriculum used.

You can find a VBS Report to fill out on our website: mcminnmeigsbaptists.org.

We'll be printing our churches VBS reports in next month's newsletter—so we need to have them in by August 20th!

We will also have a report from Camp Cherokee (we've had a GREAT year—275+ kids over the three week period).

Church Name	Current	YTD	Church Name	Current	YTD	Church Name	Current	YTD
Antioch	326.44	1,638.15	Etowah, First	0.00	200.00	Pond Hill	0.00	300.00
Athens, First	1,500.00	15,500.06	Good Hope	150.00	1,500.00	Pope Avenue	73.65	1,041.35
Bethel Springs	0.00	1,000.00	Goodsprings	199.84	1,202.99	Riceville, First	208.28	1,721.67
Bethsadia	0.00	100.00	Hiwassee	0.00	70.40	Rockview	0.00	5.00
Brookhill	0.00	0.00	Idlewild	100.00	1,200.00	Rocky Mount	0.00	450.00
Calhoun, First	200.00	2,000.00	Lakeside	172.56	1,372.80	Rogers Creek	211.94	1,068.53
Calvary, Etowah	50.00	550.00	Lakeview	230.65	2,022.41	Sanford	0.00	1,500.00
Calvary Missionary	25.00	700.00	Manilla Chapel	0.00	200.00	Shiloh	0.00	1,400.00
Central	606.30	5,606.19	Marshall Hill	0.00	700.00	Short Creek	282.75	3,526.25
Clay Hill	60.00	60.00	McMahan Calvary	221.24	1,860.88	South Liberty	0.00	0.00
Clear Springs	845.41	9,387.75	Mount Harmony, Niota	385.00	4,078.17	Stephensville	0.00	0.00
Clearwater	166.67	3,166.73	Mount Harmony, Riceville	32.60	406.53	Ten Mile	60.84	867.77
Coghill	175.00	1,750.00	Mount Pisgah	344.84	3,711.01	Union Grove	0.00	250.00
Cottonport	0.00	699.60	Mount Verd	100.00	300.00	Union Hill	162.70	1,258.56
Decatur, First	941.09	8,201.10	New Beginnings	0.00	100.00	Valley Road	0.00	300.00
Dixon Avenue	110.00	1,100.00	New Bethel	0.00	0.00	Valley View	0.00	960.00
Double Springs	200.00	2,000.00	New Zion	0.00	118.59	Walnut Grove	257.19	2,281.75
Eastanaltee	100.00	900.00	Niota, First	94.52	1,118.16	West End	228.24	602.37
East Athens	1,447.62	7,442.28	North Athens	50.00	250.00	West View	126.90	1,074.75
East Niota	0.00	1,502.00	Oak Grove	364.00	3,596.00	Wildwood	1,096.00	5,028.65
East View	0.00	10.00	Old Salem	497.04	4,293.18	Zion Hill	0.00	1,600.00
Englewood, First	741.67	7,329.19	Pisgah	0.00	4,061.92	Total Receipts	13,145.98	128,242.74

Contributions received after July 24th will be reflected in next month's report.

Mission Awareness leads to Mission Involvement

by Judy Luck, Association WMU Director

The 2018 WMU FOCUS continues to be serving “**By All Means**”. That was what Paul was willing to do to bring people to faith in Christ and it still applies today. I Corinthians 9:22b-23 (NIV) “*I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings*”.

Why Missions Discipleship?

1. The biblical and theological basis of missions. John 3:16 and Matthew 28:19-20.
2. The historical development of Christian missions. To name a few - Lottie Moon, Annie Armstrong, Bill Wallace. Who can you name?
3. The contemporary world environment. “Relief and development were key parts of post-World War II mission strategies. Understanding how the contemporary world is affected by global issues (economy, politics, tribalism, religion, postmodernism) is important to planning how to reach the world for Jesus Christ.”
4. Contemporary mission efforts. Building relationships is a way to share the gospel. Ways to build relationships: hunger relief efforts, medical care, clean water, creative arts, radio, etc.

Missions is the work of God through the church by which the gospel of Jesus Christ is extended in word and deed to all the people in the world. And, through WMU’s programs and organizations, Mission Friends, Girls in Action, Children in Action, Royal Ambassadors, Acteens, Challengers, Youth on Mission, Women on Mission, Adults on Mission, my MISSION

(internet) believers in Christ are challenged to pray for missions, take part in mission action and witnessing, learn about missions, support missions, develop spiritually toward a missions lifestyle and take part in the work of the church and the denomination. And, that is missions discipleship - a lifelong process, equipping individuals to share the gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed to all the people in the world ‘By All Means’. (Information taken from WMU Year Book, 2016-2017, by Carol Causey.)

Last but by no means least, using the Missions Mosaic magazine and the age-level materials help us be up-to-date in awareness in missions here and around the world. One month our association was featured on the ‘letters from you’ page, making homeless mats and hygiene products for a school in Africa. One great page is parenting postmoderns. Have you shared with your children that God’s Word is absolute truth (Psalm 33:4 and John 17:17) and told about your own experience with the Lord? Then encourage them to share their story to others about God. Stories are more interesting than facts, right? Right!

McMinn-Meigs Association of Baptists Pastors Conference
Meets every Monday morning at 10:00 am at the Baptist Center.

Pastors & Preachers Fellowship
 August 7 ♦ 7:00 pm ♦ Baptist Center
 Rev. Myrl Vaughn will be the speaker this month.
Hope to see you here!

McMinn-Meigs Association of Baptists, Inc.

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New in the Library

Book's

Beloved Hope *by* Tracie Peterson

Betrayed Hearts *by* Susan Anne Mason

Wayward Hearts *by* Susan Anne Mason

Love Story *by* Karen Kingsbury

Video's

Dancer and the Dame

For the Glory



Featuring Beth Moore,
Eric Geiger, Angela Thomas
-Pharr, Lysa TerKeurst, Lisa
-Jo Baker & More

NOVEMBER 9-11, 2017
HENDERSONVILLE, TN
(NASHVILLE AREA)

Come excited for the new ideas, strategies, information, and inspiration from business and ministry professionals, and leave excited to live out Christ-centered leadership wherever God is calling you.

Register by 9/8 and save \$20.

For more information or to register go to:
www.lifeway.com/events

Seminary Extension Classes announced for Fall 2017

**Seminary
Extension**

Seminary Extension Courses
are offered here at the
Baptist Center twice a

year. The next session will begin on August 17, 2017
at 6:30 pm and will be on **Biblical Backgrounds**. A

\$50.00 deposit is required to enroll for this course.

For more information, please call Kathy at 745-2248
or email: mmab@truevine.net.

**Baptist
AND Reflector**

TELLING THE STORY OF TENNESSEE BAPTISTS SINCE 1835

Order your church free copies of the *Baptist & Reflector* for Sunday, August 27th. You can order online; e-mail your requests to bandr@tnbaptist.org; mail to *Baptist & Reflector*, P.O. Box 682789, Franklin, TN 37068-2789, or call Mary Nimmo 615-371-7929. Requests need to be received by 12 noon, Friday, Aug. 18.