



# Links

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

September 2017

Monthly Newsletter of McMinn-Meigs Association of Baptists

Volume 17, Issue 9

## Mark Your Calendar!

### September

*Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions*

September 4—Labor Day,  
*Baptist Office Closed*

September 9—Fall Library  
Training, *Philippi Baptist Church, Cleveland*

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*

### October

*Cooperative Program Emphasis  
Month  
Pastor/Staff Appreciation Month*

October 2—Pastors &  
Preachers Fellowship,  
*Baptist Center, 7:00 pm*

October 7—Fall Library  
Training, *Wallace Memorial  
Baptist Church, Knoxville*

October 8—World Hunger  
Sunday

October 16—McMinn-Meigs  
Association Annual Meeting,  
*Zion Hill Baptist Church,  
7:00 pm*

October 20-22—Royal  
Ambassadors Camp-o-Ree,  
*Linden Valley Baptist  
Conference Center, Linden*

October 28—Journey into  
Adventures in Missions  
(JAM), *First Baptist Church  
Dandridge*

**2017 SEASON OF PRAYER FOR TENNESSEE MISSIONS**

*At all costs,*  
**OBEY!**

James 1:22 (NIV)  
[www.goldenoffering.org](http://www.goldenoffering.org)

T:M: Tennessee Baptist MISSION BOARD

**TENNESSEE: MY MISSION FIELD**

The Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions is church planting across Tennessee where there is no gospel witness. Its churches coming together to serve their neighborhood to see people saved, baptized, and set on the road to discipleship. It's Baptist Collegiate Ministry sharing the hope of Jesus on a campus awash in cultural relativity and godlessness.

Tennessee Baptists contributing through The Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions provides invaluable financial support for Tennessee ministries. The annual offering sustains ministries not funded through the Cooperative Program. The eternal impact of this offering in the lives of others is immeasurable. Thank you for making it happen!

*Thank you, Tennessee Baptists, for prayerfully and financially supporting missions and ministry through the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions.*

**Attention!**  
*The Baptist Center will be closed on Friday, September 29th.*

THE GOSPEL AS TOLD BY  
*Moses*  
TUESDAY NIGHTS  
BY BILL VEST

*Come study with us on Tuesdays at the Baptist Office. Classes begin at 7:00 pm on September 26th with Dr. Bill Vest teaching the class. The class is open to everyone and there is no charge.*

## Pastors & Preachers Fellowship

September 11 ♦ 7:00 pm  
Baptist Center

*Rev. Jamey Davis, Pastor of First Baptist Church Decatur will be the speaker.*

*We hope to see you here!*

**PLEASE!  
NOTE**

*Please note the date change due to the Labor Day Holiday!*



Are you working on your Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes?

Here are some changes you need to know about:

**DO NOT INCLUDE:** Candy; toothpaste; used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives, or military figures; chocolate or food; seeds; fruit rolls or other fruit snacks; drink mixes (powdered or liquid); liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; aerosol cans.

**The shipping cost has increased to \$9.00.**

God equips all Christians with special gifts to do the work of the church. Some Christians do that work well. Others sit back and tell themselves they aren't good enough to serve in God's church or that God didn't equip them with any special gifts or abilities. For some, God calls to serve in an even greater way by being a shepherd of the flock. Many of those who have responded to God's call would rather have done something else in life. But they have been faithful to serve as God called.

This month I want to commend our pastors. The churches in our association are blessed to have a group of wonderful men serving as pastors. I am always amazed when I look over the list of pastors and churches how long many of them have been at their church. In a recent article in *SBC Life* was this quote "the average tenure for a Southern Baptist pastor is just over two years, according to Thom Rainer, president of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention." The average tenure of a pastor in our association is almost 9 years!

Way to go pastors and churches. Longer tenure leads to greater ministry. I had a seminary professor who would regularly remind us that it took 5 years to say hello to Southern Baptists. Next month is Pastor Appreciation Month. I hope your church is planning something special for your pastor, whether he has been there for a few months or many years. These men have given of themselves to serve as God

has called them. If they have children, offer to watch the kids one evening so the pastor and wife can have a date night. Treat them to dinner at a special restaurant. Give the pastor a gift card to a bookstore (all pastors have a list of books they would love to read). Take him out for a round of golf or day of fishing. These may not be big things but something like this can be a great encouragement to your pastor.

Above all else, PRAY for your pastor. Not just on Sunday mornings, but through the week lift up your pastor to our Heavenly Father. They will be dealing with things many of you will never know about, and it wears them down. Pray that they will be spiritually renewed each day. If your pastor's effectiveness depended on your prayers, how good would he be?

Many a pastor could have done much better in the eyes of the world. Yet, we know that those who are serving God are not working for earthly rewards alone, but are working for the glory of the One who called us. I am proud to know and work with so many faithful servants of the Lord who are more concerned about being faithful than being a success. Whether you serve in a small church or large, may you follow Jesus every step of the way. "God did not promise to supply our good intentions. He promised to provide for our obedience." – Henry Blackaby.



## Royal Ambassadors Camp-O-Ree

October 20-22, 2017

Linden Valley Baptist Conference Center

Please make plans to join us in October for the single largest multi-state Royal Ambassadors event in the nation ... RA Camp-O-Ree!

This event is open to all Royal Ambassador and Challenger boys ages (grades 1-12).

There is definitely something for everyone. Some of the activities include:

- Fishing
- Zip Line
- Archery
- Bible Skills
- Camp Craft Competitions
- High Ropes Course
- Missions Hall
- 2 Action-Packed Worship services
- Survival of the Fittest
- Mission Quest Adventure Challenge
- Special entertainment... and so much more!

This event is attended by over 700 campers each year. RA Camp-O-Ree is a weekend packed full of fun and excitement, where boys and leaders can experience the outdoors on a whole new level.

We certainly hope to see you there!

Contact Julie Heath ([jheath@tmbaptist.org](mailto:jheath@tmbaptist.org)) for further information

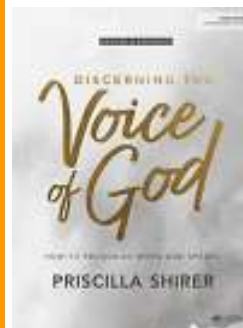
## New in the Library

### Bible Studies



Curiosity is hardwired in humanity. We have this innate need to question and seek after what we don't know or understand.

In this 6-session Bible study, delve into Scripture to explore how God created us to seek after Him—a God who desires to be found and known. In this lifelong quest of faith, learn to develop your intimacy with Him and embrace the adventure that comes with living a life for God.



### Revised & Substantially Expanded

A 7-Session Study from Best-Selling Author Priscilla Shirer

A decade ago, Priscilla Shirer authored *Discerning the Voice of God*, and since then God has continued to grow, teach, and challenge her in her walk with Him. This revised and expanded edition reflects that growth through new stories, illustrations, and exercises.

# Camp Cherokee 2017



This year was another great year at Camp each week. We had another fantastic year with our Associational youth and children's camp. Each week was filled to capacity. The total number of campers for the three weeks was 285. In that number we saw 14 youth and 4 children make decisions for salvation! We are excited about the increased interest in Camp Cherokee from our Associational churches as well as others from our community and even a few from other states! There are still many projects needed at camp to update and maintain the facility. We are in great need of a roof replacement on the auditorium and dining hall. Please continue to support your camp with prayers, volunteer support and financial giving.

We also want to give a special thanks to **Sanford Baptist Church** and to **Carlos Hammond** for helping with transportation during our children camps.

There were youth/children from 26 of our churches: *First Baptist Athens, Bethel Springs, First Baptist Calhoun, Central, Clear Springs, Clearwater, Cottonport, First Baptist Decatur, Dixon Avenue, East Athens, Eastanallee, First Baptist Etowah, Goodsprings, Idlewild, Marshall Hill, McMahan Calvary, Mount Harmony Niota, Mount Harmony Riceville, Mount Verd, Pisgah, Sanford, South Liberty, Valley View, Walnut Grove, West End and Wildwood.*

**60% of the enrolled children/youth were from our churches.**

**24 of the children/youth enrolled had no church affiliation.**

**Total Enrollment: 285 ♦ 91 Youth ♦ 99 Kids Week 1 ♦ 95 Kids Week 2**



**Youth Week**



**Friendships made....**



**Lots of food!**



**Cooling off in the pool!**



**Games played....**



**Serious woodcraft instructions!**

Church Name	Current	YTD	Church Name	Current	YTD	Church Name	Current	YTD
Antioch	0.00	1,638.15	Etowah, First	0.00	200.00	Pond Hill	0.00	300.00
Athens, First	1,500.00	17,000.06	Good Hope	150.00	1,650.00	Pope Avenue	102.85	1,144.20
Bethel Springs	0.00	1,000.00	Goodsprings	191.29	1,394.28	Riceville, First	234.45	1,956.12
Bethsadia	0.00	100.00	Hiwassee	0.00	70.40	Rockview	0.00	5.00
Brookhill	0.00	0.00	Idlewild	100.00	1,300.00	Rocky Mount	0.00	450.00
Calhoun, First	200.00	2,200.00	Lakeside	185.20	1,558.00	Rogers Creek	138.10	1,206.63
Calvary, Etowah	50.00	600.00	Lakeview	298.10	2,320.51	Sanford	0.00	1,500.00
Calvary Missionary	25.00	725.00	Manilla Chapel	0.00	200.00	Shiloh	800.00	2,200.00
Central	717.15	6,323.34	Marshall Hill	100.00	800.00	Short Creek	549.18	4,075.43
Clay Hill	0.00	60.00	McMahan Calvary	191.00	2,051.88	South Liberty	200.00	200.00
Clear Springs	1,174.69	10,562.44	Mount Harmony, Niota	510.00	4,588.17	Stephensville	0.00	0.00
Clearwater	166.67	3,333.40	Mount Harmony, Riceville	48.80	455.33	Ten Mile	94.69	962.46
Coghill	175.00	1,925.00	Mount Pisgah	578.59	4,289.60	Union Grove	0.00	250.00
Cottonport	206.80	906.40	Mount Verd	0.00	300.00	Union Hill	223.60	1,482.16
Decatur, First	987.62	9,188.72	New Beginnings	50.00	150.00	Valley Road	0.00	300.00
Dixon Avenue	110.00	1,210.00	New Bethel	0.00	0.00	Valley View	355.00	1,315.00
Double Springs	50.00	2,050.00	New Zion	0.00	118.59	Walnut Grove	236.80	2,518.55
Eastanallee	100.00	1,000.00	Niota, First	129.96	1,248.12	West End	197.30	799.67
East Athens	955.45	8,397.73	Niota, First	129.96	1,248.12	West View	179.54	1,254.29
East Niota	166.00	1,668.00	North Athens	0.00	250.00	Wildwood	554.00	5,582.65
East View	0.00	10.00	Oak Grove	460.80	4,056.80	Zion Hill	0.00	1,600.00
Englewood, First	741.67	8,070.86	Old Salem	806.21	5,099.39	<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>15,702.44</b>	<b>143,945.18</b>
			Pisgah	710.93	4,772.85			

*Contributions received after August 23rd will be reflected in next month's report.*

## September Celebrations

### Celebrating Birthdays

- 01....**Victor King**..... Short Creek
- Bill Vest**..... Wildwood
- 04....**Brenda Plaster**..... East Niota
- 05....**Melissa Beasley**..... First Baptist Riceville
- 07....**Sharon Rymer**..... Walnut Grove
- 08....**Gerald Perry**..... Mount Pisgah
- 09....**Donnie Dalton**..... Mount Verd
- 11....**Gary Rolan**..... Union Grove Decatur
- 12....**Robert Sneed**..... East View
- 16....**Debbie Maddox**..... Pond Hill
- Russ Maples**..... First Baptist Englewood
- 27....**Stan Hammonds**..... Mount Harmony Niota
- 29....**Larry Fain**..... Association Staff Spouse

### Celebrating Anniversaries

- 06.. **William & Melissa Beasley**.... First Baptist Riceville
- 07.. **Russ & Laura Maples**..... First Baptist Englewood
- 25.. **David & Debbie Coffman**..... Valley Road
- 28.. **Mike & Delois Bernard**..... Central

### Church/Association Anniversaries

- Larry Arwood**.....Antioch..... 2 years
- Bo Coleman**.....Hiwassee ..... 2 years
- John Crisp**.....West End..... 4 years
- Joe Hatcher**.....Coghill..... 10 years
- Hoyt Melton**.....Valley View ..... 11 years
- David Coffman**.....Valley Road..... 12 years
- Mike Bernard**.....Central..... 43 years



## McMinn-Meigs Association of Baptists Pastors Conference

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

## Church News

- **Calhoun First Baptist** is seeking a part-time associate pastor of youth and families. Send resume to [brocheatham@gmail.com](mailto:brocheatham@gmail.com) or P.O. Box 175, Calhoun, TN 37309.
- **Central Baptist Church** is seeking a full-time worship leader/minister of youth. Please send resume to [cbctle@outlook.com](mailto:cbctle@outlook.com) or Central Baptist Church 13 Nash Dr. Athens, TN 37303.
- Our sympathy to **Larry & Libby Johnson** during the loss of Libby's brother.
- **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.

Already we are in ‘full swing’ of implementing mission plans for this year. Don’t forget the WMU theme book for a resource because it is undergirding the theme, “By All Means” and the scripture I Corinthians 9:22-23. **“The Care Effect - Unleashing the Power of Compassion”** by David Crosby. Take note of some of the chapters: Who deserves my care? Routine care of members (nothing is routine when being a part of God’s plan). What does it mean to love? Don’t pit member care against outsider care. One more, Forces that push us away from Compassion Ministries. If you are looking for some ‘fresh’ ways to be intentional and consistent with the passion that only comes from the Lord, read this book.

“FAIR TRADE” is a phrase we are hearing a lot lately. WMU has been providing a way to offer an income with dignity and the hope of everlasting life to every person on earth since 1996, called WorldCrafts. It started with one artisan group, Thai Country Trim, Bangkla, Thailand. Today, WMU works with numerous artisan groups to import and sell hundreds of fine, handcrafted items from many countries around the world. I have personally bought several items and have not been disappointed. What is their goal?

1. Be committed to the in-country partners and artisan groups with whom we work.
2. Be holistic to meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of their workers.

3. Abide by Fair Trade Federation guidelines - ensuring that artisans receive fair wages and the goods purchased are produced in an ethical and environmentally-friendly manner.

If you do not have a recent catalog (in the association office), visit **WorldCrafts.org** for more information. Follow on **facebook.com/WorldCrafts**

Mark your calendar for Monday, November 6th, 1:30 p.m., Baptist Association Office for the World Day of Prayer. The theme is **ARISE, SHINE** - ‘When We Arise, Communities are Transformed’. What does transformed mean? It means ‘a complete or major change’. Isn’t that what happens to us when we pray to receive Jesus Christ as our personal Savior? Romans 12:1 - When we listen to God’s spirit of transformation, families change and whole communities are transformed to better reflect God’s purpose. Come, so together we can pray the Spirit of God will reveal a deep hunger to change and let God shine through us and transform our communities. That is what our world needs now.

**JAM**, a great opportunity for children to learn about missions and do missions. October 28 at First Baptist Church, Dandridge.



First Baptist Church Dandridge  
October 28, 2017 ♦ 9:30 am—2:30 pm

An exciting one-day missions event for children in grades 1-6 and their leaders, including members of GAs, RAs and Children in Action. The event is sponsored by Tennessee WMU. JAM Reach Out! As Christ followers, we are to share Christ and God’s love to those around us. We will spend time looking at ways to Reach Out! with the gospel to our friends, our neighbors and all around the world.

For more information or to register online go to [www.tnbaptist.org](http://www.tnbaptist.org)



**Christian Builders needs Ramp Builders!**

**Men and women needed to help build handicap ramps. We average 2 ramps per month. Experienced carpenters, handy men or unskilled people needed. Contact Scott Duckworth at 263-1989.**

## Vacation Bible School 2017

Church Name	Total Enrollment	Average Attendance	Number of Decisions
Athens First	244	221	6
Bethel Springs	35	32	3
Central	98	90	
Clearwater	171	130	24
Cog Hill	77	66	
Etowah First	82	35	
Manilla Chapel	40	35	1
Mount Harmony Niota	97	72	2
Old Salem	97	79	2
South Liberty	49	49	
West End	84	77	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,074</b>	<b>886</b>	<b>38</b>

## Looking to VBS 2018



Gear up for life’s big game with LifeWay’s 2018 VBS. **Game On!** Invites your kids to grasp their megaphones, lace up their cleats, and tune up their instruments. As they fill up the offensive lines, sidelines, and drum lines, your players, cheerleaders, and band members will realize God has given them His ultimate playbook. He wants them to join His team, train hard, celebrate salvation, and encourage one another. The game clock is ticking. Get in the spirit today with Game On! VBS.

## McMinn-Meigs Association of Baptists, Inc.

350 Congress Parkway North  
Athens, TN 37303

Phone: 423-745-2248

Fax: 423-745-7693

Website: [www.mcminnmeigsbaptists.org](http://www.mcminnmeigsbaptists.org)

Email: [mmab@truevine.net](mailto:mmab@truevine.net)

### Association Staff:

**Director of Missions:** Rev. Mike Farmer

Email: [mikefarmer@truevine.net](mailto:mikefarmer@truevine.net)

**Ministry Assistant:** Kathy Fain

Email: [mmab@truevine.net](mailto:mmab@truevine.net)



## Church Library Training

- Five hours of quality training
- Bookstore for your shopping convenience
- Carnival Booths to learn about various subjects.
- Door Prizes
- Classes include up-to-date instruction in most areas of library work including promotion, Concourse, Atrium, administration, collection development, selection, book repair and more.



**Registration** includes continental breakfast, lunch & snacks.

\$30 for Early Registration (received 10 days prior to event)

\$40 for Late Registrations and Walk-ins

### Two opportunities in our area:

**September 9, 2017**

**Philippi Baptist Church**

2484 Harrison Pike  
Cleveland, TN

**October 7, 2017**

**Wallace Memorial Baptist Church**

701 Merchant Drive  
Knoxville, TN

*For more information or to register online go to: [www.tnbaptist.org](http://www.tnbaptist.org).*

Non-Profit Org.  
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**Return Service Requested**



**Teach Boys &  
Girls gr. 4-6  
25 Bible verses,  
10 Key  
Passages & the**

**Books of the Bible in fun ways**

**Contact Candy Macon,  
Coordinator for E & SE**

**Regions for help  
865-938-1163 or  
[rmacon@aol.com](mailto:rmacon@aol.com)**

***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) are  
here and ready for pick-up during  
regular office hours!**