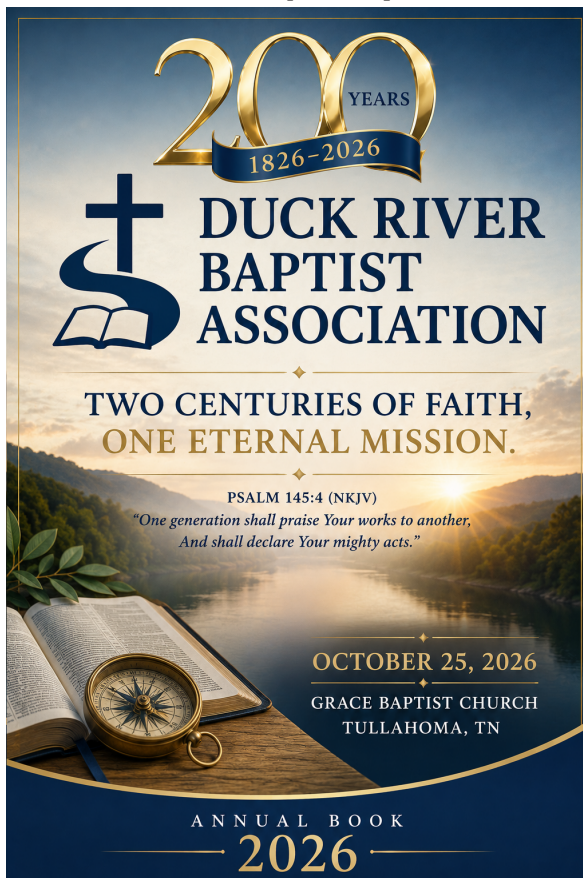


The Duck River Current

Churches serving Christ together in Coffee, Franklin, & Grundy Counties...and to the uttermost parts of the earth.

What a great turnout for the first half of our Annual Meeting. The messengers for the 200th Annual Meeting of the Duck River Baptist Association got together at First Baptist Church Estill Springs on September 8th for the business portion of the annual meeting and to commission those going to Peru on a mission trip. Many thanks to FBC Estill Springs for hosting this event. We appreciate your hospitality.



Don't forget the second half of the Annual Meeting will take place on October 25th at Grace Baptist in Tullahoma, as we get together and celebrate the goodness of God commemorating 200 years of God's faithfulness. The first session starts at 4PM and the second session will begin at 6:30PM. Please join us for a memorable night.



On Saturday, September 12th, Marble Plains Baptist church hosted author Susannah B. Lewis for a ladies brunch. We had a great turnout with over 80 members and guests in attendance.



Congratulations to Landon & Miko Shelby on the birth of daughter Saylar Grace Shelby on September 6th, 2026. Landon is the Student Pastor for Grace Baptist Church.

**Welcome
Autumn**

Tennessee Baptists are challenged to provide Christmas Backpacks for children living in poverty regions in Tennessee in order to impact these lives with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Christmas Backpacks will be collected at multiple locations across the state.



Counselor's Corner: Domestic abuse affects millions of individuals each year and cuts across every demographic, culture, and community. It is more than physical violence; it includes emotional, psychological, financial, sexual, and spiritual control. Recognizing and responding to it appropriately can save lives.

Research shows that domestic abuse often escalates gradually. Early warning signs such as isolation, manipulation, and controlling behaviors can precede more overt violence. Survivors frequently experience fear, shame, and confusion, which can make seeking help extremely difficult. Helpers must approach with sensitivity, safety, and a trauma-informed mindset.

Abuse thrives in secrecy, but awareness and informed action can interrupt the cycle. Trauma-informed responses, those that emphasize safety, trust, collaboration, and empowerment, help restore dignity and healing. Building partnerships between faith leaders, mental health professionals, and domestic violence agencies strengthens community capacity to protect and support survivors. To read the entire article go to: **Recognizing and Responding to Domestic Abuse by JAMIE ATEN, PH.D. & KENT ANNAN, M.DIV**

DUCK RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
STRENGTHENING CHURCHES, IMPACTING LOSTNESS
SERVING THE SAVIOR SINCE 1826

PASTOR'S CONFERENCE
ENCOURAGE | EQUIP | PRAY | CONNECT

MONDAY, OCTOBER 5TH
11:00 A.M.
DRBA OFFICE
Tullahoma, TN

Guest Speaker
BILLY WELSH
PASTOR
GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH
MANCHESTER, TN

FAITHFUL
PASTORS
STRONGER
CHURCHES
BRIGHTER
TOMORROWS

 *Lunch will follow.*

Thank you Dennis Crump, Dwight Stevens from Grace Baptist Church and Phil and Brenda Marty from Fayetteville for going to Encampment, WY in an effort to help out our sister church making repairs to their church and parsonage.



Pictures from the DRBA team in Iquitos, Peru... they had trouble getting there, but on the ground doing the Lord's work! Genaro Orellana Arias, Stephen Thomas Winton, Ashley & Mark Sutherland, Patrick Waller, Emmy Tiner and Mark Deboard.



This year the Duck River Baptist Association will be celebrating our 200th Anniversary which will be observed at our Annual Meeting on October 25th, at Grace Baptist Church. Leading up to that we want to give some history of our Association every month in anticipation of our Bicentennial Celebration. **(Continuation of last month)**



Mark Puckett began his ministry as the DRBA Director of Missions on November 1, 2010, succeeding Baylor Hilliard. In 2011, a significant evangelism training initiative was undertaken called "One-Verse Evangelism" with training conducted in 14 churches.

In 2012, the Tennessee Baptist Convention gave the property and physical assets of the Baptist Collegiate Ministries at Motlow College to the DRBA, New Duck River Baptist Association in Shelbyville, and the William Carey Association in Fayetteville which currently owns and operates the facilities under a board of directors chosen by the three associations.

Another major development in 2012 was the purchase of a trailer and equipment to provide an evangelistic block party trailer for DRBA churches to use in outreach and ministry in their communities.

The Counseling Center saw the retirement of Dr. Barbara Singleton as Director in 2012. Dr. Nancy Garrison assumed the role of Director. Dr. Jon Garrison was also added to the staff as a part-time counselor.

In March 2013 the DRBA sent a mission team to Taipei, Taiwan, East Asia. This was the first international mission team ever recruited and deployed by the association. Over the next ten years, more than twenty teams spent more than 1,000 days in various ministries in the cities of Taipei and Kaohsiung with the gospel presented to literally thousands. DRBA churches also raised funds to purchase and distribute more than 7,000 Chinese Bibles to tourists in Taiwan from mainland China. All told, it is only known in heaven the kingdom impacts this partnership has had.

2015 saw the renovation of a portion of the DRBA offices into a usable space for the Christian Counseling Center.

The name of the ministry at Bonnaroo was changed to "The Jesus Tent" in 2016 and saw the number of people touched to more than 10,000 in four days each summer. The TBC says this is the largest evangelistic outreach of any kind by any church or organization in the state of Tennessee.

The association began a new mission partnership with Calgary, Alberta, Canada in 2018, funding a church planter for three years and sending mission teams for numerous years. As of this writing, this is the longest and most significant mission partnership the DRBA has undertaken other than Taiwan.

In 2019, the TBC ceased funding the Director's position of the Baptist Collegiate Ministries at Motlow College. The DRBA, along with New Duck River Baptist Association in Shelbyville and William Carey Association in Fayetteville agreed to fund a part-time position and hired Nathan Dorrell as the new Director. Mark Puckett retired as Director of Missions in May 2023 after 12½ with the DRBA. He was succeeded by Matthew Ledbetter.



First Baptist Church Estill Springs will host "High Road" on Saturday, October 10th at 6 PM. Concert is free. This is an all female musical group, and all the ladies play various instruments. Should be a wonderful evening of worship. Please join us!

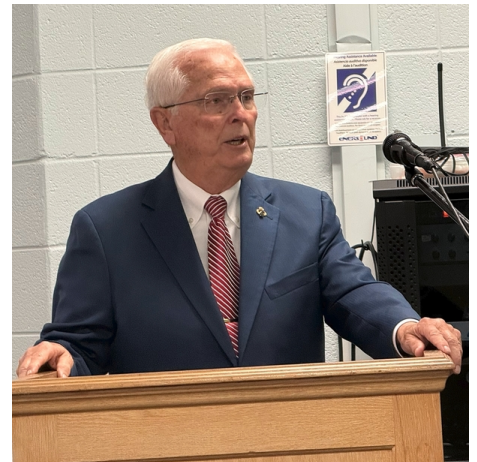
Daylight Savings Time ends on November 1, 2026. Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour.



October 4th is CP Sunday which is an annual observance that celebrates the Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists' unified plan of giving that has funded missions at every level since 1925. Through the Cooperative Program, churches give a percentage of their undesignated receipts to support state, national, and international missions and ministries.



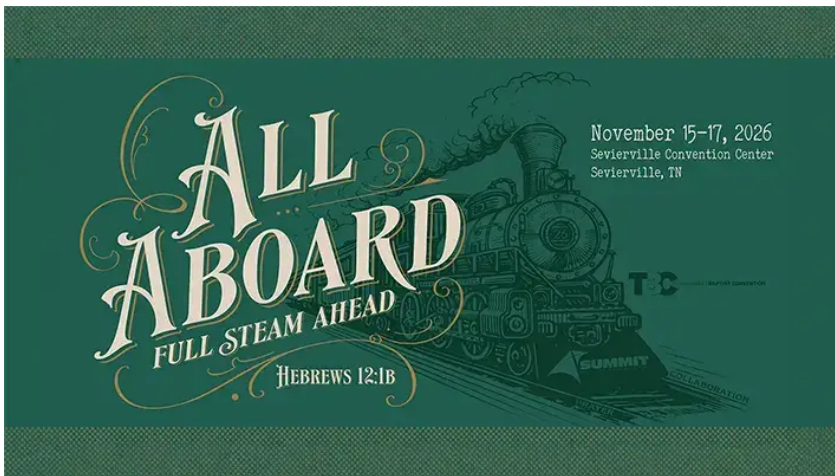
Pastor L Z Johnson of Cowan First Baptist Church spoke at the Gideon's Pastor's Appreciation Breakfast on September 11th commemorating 25 years since the 9/11 terrorist attacks on our nation.



Our deepest sympathy goes to the family of Amy Jackson. Amy was a member of First Baptist Church Tullahoma. She also served as the Administrative Assistant to Pastor Jim Norman at Highland Baptist and she served as the Clerk for the Duck River Baptist Association Leadership Team. She will be greatly missed.



Pastor Nathan Dorrell from the DRBA Baptist Collegiate Ministry was the guest speaker at the Men's Breakfast at Marble Plains Baptist Church on September 19th.



The Summit is the annual gathering of Tennessee Baptists. You probably know it as the Tennessee Baptist Convention. The Summit includes the Pastors Conference, the annual meeting, and everything in between. The location is:

**The Sevierville Convention Center
202 Gists Creek Rd, Sevierville, TN
37876**

Nov 15 - 17 2026



Don't forget to vote in November but more importantly pray for our nation and our upcoming elections.

Author Becky Smith will be teaching this Bible study, "When I Feel Like Her" starting September 27th at 6:00 in the evening at Keith Springs Baptist Church. Cost of the book is \$20. Everyone is invited



Time for the Annual Church Profile (ACP) is just around the corner. This information on our churches is vital to help us understand where we are and how to address areas of weaknesses as a denomination. ACP information is due back October 1st.



October is Pastor Appreciation Month, but why October, and why appreciate your pastor? Well, to start with, the concept of appreciating your pastor is biblical, and God directed the New Testament church to do so.

In 1 Timothy, Paul wrote, **"Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching"** (1 Tim. 5:17, ESV). He also wrote, **"We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work"** (1 Thess. 5:12–13, ESV).

In 1992, James Dobson and Focus on the Family initiated a push to promote the second Sunday in October as National Clergy Appreciation Month. In 1994, a transition was made to make October Pastor Appreciation Month. Taking time to recognize the work of your pastor is essential. It is a sign of a healthy church and communicates to your pastor that you are thankful for his shepherding the flock of God.

God tells us in Jeremiah 3:15, **"And I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding."** Pastors have the privilege and responsibility to preach and teach the Word of God to the church and are a gift from God for the local church.



Pastors are not perfect, but God has called them to shepherd His people as they live life together. A pastor's role is uniquely stressful. The pastor's job is not 9-5 business hours. Weeks can be long, filled with the burden of carrying the emotional, mental, and spiritual weight of the church because a pastor who shepherds the flock lives his life connected to the people. He may go from the emotional joy of birth to the emotional low of death in 24 hours.

Your pastor deserves honor, and God is very clear about honoring our leaders. When you take the time to appreciate your pastor, you are acknowledging him for his service. You are saying "thank you" for all he does to shepherd you and lead you closer to Jesus. Your "thank you" is another way of saying "I love you."

Brian Saxon (D. Min., Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary) serves as the Shepherd Team Leader for the SCBC.



October 18th is the Day of Prayer for Baptist Associations in the state of Tennessee. We are asking our churches to pray for local Baptist Associations and the work they are doing in communities across the nation and around the world because our ministry is only possible through prayer and the support of our churches.

Spread the Good News of Jesus Christ by packing a shoebox for children around the world. Many churches in the Duck River Baptist Association have already started to collect for **"Operation Christmas Child."** Please support this worthy cause to carry the Gospel message around the world.



How may we serve your church?**We're here to help.****The Duck River Baptist Association****P.O. Box 820****Tullahoma, TN 37388****931-455-5072****www.duckrivermissions.org****Matt Ledbetter, Director of Missions****duckrivermissions@gmail.com****Debbie Johnson, Administrative Assistant****drbmissions@gmail.com**

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Each year Tennessee WMU asks a few associations to "adopt" a Missionary Kid whose parents are serving overseas with the IMB. These students are often away from their family for the first time and in a country they did not grow up in. College can often feel lonely and isolating to them. The purpose of this Missionary Kid Adoption is for the associations to nurture and encourage these students while they are far from family and hopefully for the church to see missions more personally.



GRACE OUTDOORS HERITAGE DAY GATHERING



October 10, 2026 at 9AM
Food served at Noon
Food ticket \$15

Grace Baptist Church
1901 Ovoca Road
Tullahoma, TN



Chuckwagon Cookoff



Antique Tractors, Cars and Trucks



Live Cowboy Shoot Out Reenactment



Come experience food cooked the way it was back in old days on cattle drives.





All profits will go to support our youth in missions and activities.
 For Information call or text Gary Dickson 931-979-1497

We hope the churches in our association will encourage the Missionary Kids throughout the school year with notes, emails, gift cards, goody packages, etc.

Thanks so much for all you and your church will do to support our assigned "Missionary Kid." Here is the MK/TCK assigned to our association for the 2026-27 school year:

Jesse Jungheim, (male) sophomore at Union University, Birthday Mar 8
Mailing address: 1050 Union University Dr. Box 2450, Jackson TN 38505
jesse.jungheim@gmail.com