

## MMAB CHURCHES

Antioch  
Athens First  
Bethel Springs  
Bethsadia  
Brookhill  
Calhoun First  
Calvary Etowah  
Calvary Missionary  
Cambria  
Central  
Clay Hill  
Clear Springs  
Clearwater  
Cog Hill  
Conasauga  
Cottonport  
Decatur First  
Dixon Avenue  
Double Springs  
Eastanallee  
Eastview  
East Athens  
East Niota  
Englewood First  
Etowah First  
Five Point  
Good Hope  
Goodsprings  
Hiwassee  
Idlewild  
Lakeside  
Lakeview  
Manilla Chapel  
Marshall Hill  
McMahan Calvary  
Mount Harmony Niota  
Mount Harmony Riceville  
Mount Pisgah  
Mount Verd  
New Beginnings  
New Bethel  
New Zion  
Niota First  
North Athens  
North Etowah  
Oak Grove  
Old Salem  
Parkway  
Pisgah  
Pond Hill  
Pope Avenue  
Riceville First  
Rockview  
Rocky Mount  
Rogers Creek  
Sanford  
Shiloh  
Short Creek  
South Liberty  
Stephensville  
Union Grove Decatur  
Union Grove Niota  
Union Hill  
Union McMinn  
Valley Road  
Valley View  
Walnut Grove  
West End  
West View  
Wildwood  
Zion Hill

# LINKS

## MCMINN-MEIGS ASSOCIATION OF BAPTISTS

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Athens, TN 37303

Phone: 423-745-2248

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

Volume 12, Issue 2

February 2012

# 2 OPTIONS for VBS 2012

**Yes - it's time to start planning for VBS 2012!**

I will be placing an early order for Lifeway's VBS materials and I will be picking up the orders on February 25th.



*The Association receives a commission on any orders placed through us. To place your order, please contact Kathy at 745-2248.*

**Mark your Calendar!**



**The Vacation Bible School Clinic will be on March 27, 2012  
at North Etowah Baptist Church from 6:00—8:00 pm**



## Association Celebration 2012

**Impact: McMinn-Meigs Sharing Jesus**

**Sunday, March 11, 2012**

McMinn County High  
School Gymnasium

**Services begin at 5:00 pm**

Music by Mike Speck Ministries along with the Association Mass Choir

Speaker: **Dr. Allan Lockerman, Co-Pastor of First Baptist Church, Cleveland, TN**

*(an offering will be taken to go toward Volunteer Mission Support)*

***The past two years, each Celebration has averaged around 1,500 in attendance representing over 40 Association Churches. Let's make this third Celebration the best attended ever!***



**Attention: Association Choir Members—please see page 3 for the practice schedule.**



## Ray's Reflections

In the past several years we have seen the emergence of several quality feature length Christian oriented movies making their way to Theaters across our nation. Movies like "Facing the Giants", "Fireproof", "Soul Surfer", "Courageous" and soon to be released "October Baby" have had and continue to have a profound impact on the lives of those who view them. "Courageous" deals with the issue of men assuming the responsibilities God has given to us to be leaders in our home, church and community and the impact it can have when men assume their proper role (Ephesians 5: 21-6:4). It is a movie worth seeing, particularly by men Christian and non-Christian alike. The DVD is now available in the Association Media Center for checkout. Another movie that will open in Theaters March 23, 2012 is titled "October Baby". It is a movie that deals, powerfully and sensitively, with the issue of abortion and adoption. Having had the opportunity to screen this movie on January 24 along with other pastors from our Association I can testify that it is a must see. As with "Courageous" and the other Christian movies the number of people who show up to see the movie on opening weekend will determine how long the movie will be in Theaters. I hope, as happened with "Courageous", many will plan to see "October Baby" the weekend of March 23 - 25, 2012.

As with the movie "Fireproof" there is a book and Bible study available for "Courageous" to be used by men to help them come to grips with what God has called us to be and do. In recent years men have been taking a beating on TV and other venues. Because of this onslaught many men, instead of being in the driver's seat as God's ordained spiritual leader, have taken a back seat becoming passive spectators in a world hostile to God's order of things. Having watched "Courageous" several times I am more convinced every day that it is time for men, particularly Christian men, to step up and reestablish their God given role as spiritual leaders in their home, their church and their community. Robert Lewis has written a great book titled "Raising a Modern Day Knight" designed to help fathers lead their sons through a

series of steps, from the time they turn 13 through their teen years, helping prepare them to be men of God as they enter their adult years. This book can be adapted for daughters as well. Lewis has also written a men's Bible Study titled "Authentic Manhood" that would be good to use with the men in your church (Jeremy MacMurray, Pastor of FBC, Riceville will soon be leading the men of the church in this study). The movie "Courageous" climaxes with the men pledging the following:

***"I do solemnly resolve before God to take full responsibility for myself, my wife and my children.***

***I will love them, protect them, serve them, and teach them the Word of God as the spiritual leader of my home. I will be faithful to my wife, to love and honor her, and be willing to lay down my life for her as Jesus Christ did for me.***

***I will bless my children and teach them to love God with all of their hearts, all of their minds, and all of their strength. I will train them to honor authority and live responsibly.***

***I will confront evil, pursue justice, and love mercy. I will pray for others and treat them with kindness, respect, and compassion.***

***I will work diligently to provide for the needs of my family I will forgive those who have wronged me and reconcile with those I have wronged. I will learn from my mistakes, repent of my sins, and walk with integrity as a man answerable to God. I will seek to honor God, be faithful to His church, obey His Word, and do His will.***

***I will courageously work with the strength God provides to fulfill this resolution for the rest of my life and for His glory. As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord - Joshua 24:15."***

I do not believe there has, since Adam and Eve sinned in the garden, ever been a time that has been easy for men and women to define their roles based on God's order of things. But even with the difficulties there have always been

breakthrough times when God has revived us and brought us back to His way. It is my prayer this may indeed be one of those times when our eyes are opened to our sin, we repent, turn to God and allow Him to restore us to His way and lead us according to His design for our lives and His church. May we be faithful!

The January "Call to Prayer" has averaged 5 people each Thursday coming to the Association Office to pray for revival. I don't know where this is going to lead or what God has in store for us in the days ahead, I was simply obedient to Him to issue a "Call to Prayer". I truly hope it will continue beyond January and that more and more people will fall before a Holy God in repentance seeking His reviving spirit to fall upon us (II Chronicles 7:14). My son-in-law developed a read through the Gospels plan for January. I have expanded that and have a plan whereby you can read through the Bible in a year (basically three chapters a day) along with a Psalms and Proverbs reading plan. If you would like a copy please come by the office or call me at 506-6541 and we will provide you one.

Please take note of the other information packed articles in this LINKS especially the information regarding the Association Celebration set for Sunday March 11, 2012, 5pm at the McMinn County High School Gym.

February 20-24, 2012 Judy and I will be traveling to Cincinnati to participate in a TBC sponsored Vision Tour of that area (this is the latest TBC Partnership area). I will share the information we glean upon our return in the hope it will generate mission trip possibilities for churches in our Association.

I hope you will have a great month of February, the month of LOVE. As you focus on doing something special for your loved one on this earth do not forget the great LOVE that has been bestowed upon us by our Heavenly Father when He sent His only begotten Son Jesus to die for our sin and to rise from the grave that we might have life eternal through Him. Share that with someone this month.

Pastor/Association Staff Spotlights

**Birthday's of the Month**

- 04.. *Jeff Anderson* ..... Lakeside
- 09.. *Tangie Best* ..... Conasauga
- 12.. *Carrie King* ..... Shiloh
- 13.. *Doris Jordan* ..... Pisgah
- 14.. *Van Elkins*..... Pope Avenue
- 19.. *Debbie Coffman* ..... Valley Road

**Celebrating Anniversaries this month**

- 22.. *Bill & Vicki Vest* ..... Wildwood

**Church/Association Anniversaries**

- Rick Ingram* ..... Union Hill..... 1 year
- Earl Graves* ..... Union Gove Decatur.... 2 years
- Scott Packett*..... Idlewild..... 4 years
- Mike Rymer*..... Walnut Grove ..... 6 years
- Dusty Caldwell*... Calvary Missionary ..... 9 years
- Donnie Dalton* ... Mount Verd ..... 18 years

**Associational Choir Practices for Association Celebration**

Tuesday, February 21, 7:00 pm—FBC Athens

Tuesday, February 28, 7:00 pm—FBC Calhoun

Sunday, March 4, 3:00 pm—FBC Athens

*For more information, call 745-2248.*

*Music & Practice CD's are available at the Baptist Office.*

**ABUNDANT LIFE**  
CHRISTIAN COUNSELING SERVICES

Located at the Fairview Baptist Tabernacle Church in Sweetwater  
Counselor is Macy Small  
Phone 865-414-3269 or [abundantlife4me.org](http://abundantlife4me.org)

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

**FINANCIAL ISSUES**  
*facing churches & ministers*

February 21, 2012 ♦ 10:00 am— Noon  
Knox County Baptist Association  
Knoxville, TN

February 21, 2012 ♦ 6:30 pm—8:30 pm  
Watson Chapel Baptist Church  
Madisonville, TN

February 22, 2012 ♦ 10:00 am— Noon  
Hamilton County Baptist Association  
Chattanooga, TN

Many churches, committees, and ministers make costly mistakes that affect both the church's financial position as well as the minister's individual finances. Structure it right on the front end and save time, money, and hassles.

**TOPICS**

- **New Reporting Requirements:** Due to Healthcare Reform
- **Federal Reporting:** Excess Benefit Transactions – DON'T do this! – What to report as income
- **Benefits Programs:** Insurance – Retirement – Matching Contributions – IRS Forms and other Publications – Compliance: When to use W2 and 1099 – Form 944
- **Charitable Contributions:** Cash Contributions – Designated Giving – Is the gift deductible? – Non-cash Gifts – Appraisal Rules – Donation of Vehicles
- **Other Financial Issues:** Housing Allowance – Expense Reimbursements

**NO REGISTRATION IS NECESSARY!**

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Those encouraged to attend are treasurers, administrative church employees, finance or personnel committees, ministers, church staff, church secretaries, or interested lay leaders.

*For general questions related to the topics covered, or help with financial issues in your church, please contact:*

**Richard Skidmore** – 800.558.2090, ext. 2009

**Joyce Harvey** – 800.558.2090, ext. 2053



**Cooperative Program Sunday**

April 22, 2012

Promotion materials can be ordered by going to [www.cpmiissions.net](http://www.cpmiissions.net) or [www.tnbaptist.org](http://www.tnbaptist.org) then CP Logo then Other Resources.



**YOUR CHURCH COMMITS PART OF YOUR GIFT...**

...to be used by the **North American Mission Board (NAMB)** to plant churches and share the gospel. Almost 23% of CP gifts forwarded to the SBC are used for North American missions.



*Lake Side*

**4th ANNUAL SINGING**

Butcher Auditorium • 225 Hiwassee College Drive • Madisonville, TN

February 24th, 2012 @ 7:30 PM

February 25th, 2012 @ 7:00 PM

For more information and tickets, call 423-420-9408

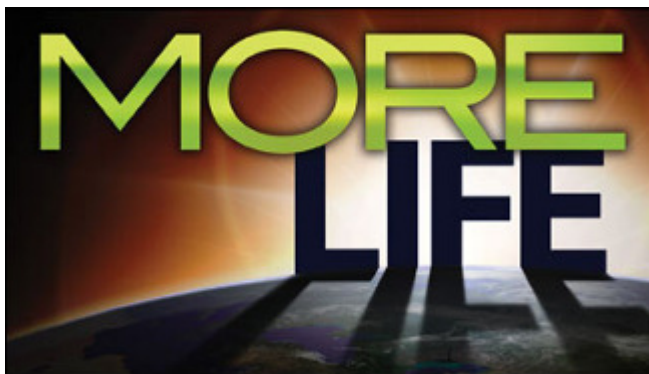


*So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord... (2 Timothy 1:8)*

**MARCH 23-25, 2012**

**GATLINBURG CONVENTION CENTER**

**GATLINBURG, TENNESSEE**



Bobby Welch, Associate Executive Director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention is spearheading an Evangelistic Initiative Titled "MORE LIFE". During the Spring of 2012 there will be a series of "MORE LIFE" Rallies held throughout the State

The Rallies close to McMinn-Meigs are:

- Thursday March 15 at Central Baptist Church, Knoxville
- Tuesday April 24 at Blairland Baptist Church, Loudon
- Thursday May 3 at Lake Drive Baptist Church, Sale Creek
- Monday May 21 at Clingan Ridge Baptist Church, Cleveland

A Pastor/wife Banquet will Precede each Rally (reservations necessary for the Banquet)

*If you are interested in attending any of these Rallies call Bobby Welch's office at 1-800-558-2090 or Ray Luck at 506-6541.*



## Children's Ministry Day 2012



**A** Always do your best to please God.

**B** Be a good worker.

**C** Correctly teach others.



*These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee. If Timothy 2:15*

### you are invited!

**Bring: 2 gallon plastic bags; 22 oz. box of detergent; 20 count dryer sheets**

Date: Saturday, March 17th

Time: 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Place: Tennessee Wesleyan College Campus

Project: Laundry and Lunch

To sign up or learn more, contact: Judy Luck @ 649-0394 or Kim Brown @ 368-9547

## 12th Annual Women at the Well Banquet

March 16, 2012 ♦ 6:30 pm  
Eastanallee Baptist Church

You may make your reservation at any time. The menu for the banquet will be Roast Beef, gravy, scallop potatoes, baby carrots, rolls, tossed salad, and cheese cake. Also, the program will be awesome because it will be the students at WATW. This is one you will not want to miss.

The theme is It is impossible to please God without faith- My heart needs to trust God.

For more information or to make reservations, please call 745-0010.

*A fun fast-paced day!  
For leaders and children in Grades 1-6*



*Get on track with God's Word!*

### Bible FUN Field Day 2012

March 17 - Linden Valley  
March 24 - Carson Springs

## Bible FUN Field Day 2012

### Camp Carson

Saturday March 24, 2012

9:45am – 3:30pm

For Children Grades 1-6, Leaders and Parents

Cost \$25.00 per child and adult

Go to [www.tnchildhood.org](http://www.tnchildhood.org) for schedule, online registration and conference descriptions or call Barbara Owens at 1-800-558-2090 x 7905. **Registration Deadline: February 21st.**

## Complete the 2012 SBC Church Compensation Survey today!

Sponsored by your Baptist state convention, GuideStone Financial Resources and LifeWay Christian Resources, the 2012 survey is again online. In 2010 about 12,000 church employees participated, and we're counting on you to make this year's survey a success.

- The survey takes less than 10 minutes to complete.
- Your individual results are kept anonymous: Results are reported in aggregate at the state or national level for churches of similar size and budget.

For almost two decades, the SBC Church Compensation Survey's results have been used by church finance and personnel committees to establish competitive compensation packages for ministers and support staff. Your participation will help make this year's survey the most complete yet. Ministers, secretaries and maintenance/custodial staff are invited to participate.

Visit [www.GuideStone.org/CompensationSurvey](http://www.GuideStone.org/CompensationSurvey) by May 31 to take the online survey.



*Do well. Do right.®*



## Church Contributions

Church Name	Current	YTD	Church Name	Current	YTD	Church Name	Current	YTD
Antioch	143.54	529.98	Etowah, First	250.00	500.00	Pisgah	395.00	2,072.00
Athens, First	0.0 0	6,499.98	Five Point	0.00	75.00	Pond Hill	150.00	150.00
Bethel Springs	0.00	0.00	Good Hope	75.00	300.00	Pope Avenue	56.14	180.02
Bethsadia	50.00	200.00	Goodsprings	247.17	570.08	Riceville, First	186.49	526.79
Brookhill	0.00	0.00	Hiwassee	0.00	112.80	Rockview	0.00	0.00
Calhoun, First	1,326.80	2,610.80	Idlewild	200.00	500.00	Rocky Mount	0.00	150.00
Calvary, Etowah	100.00	300.00	Lakeside	274.31	1,230.62	Rogers Creek	49.56	196.27
Calvary Missionary	0.00	0.00	Lakeview	0.00	445.75	Sanford	1,500.00	1,500.00
Cambria	139.47	505.20	Manilla Chapel	0.00	0.00	Shiloh	0.00	0.00
Central	469.83	2,151.60	Marshall Hill	100.00	300.00	Short Creek	535.78	1,150.40
Clay Hill	60.00	60.00	McMahan Calvary	436.98	880.81	South Liberty	124.00	507.00
Clear Springs	321.24	1,273.06	Mount Harmony, Niota	387.00	1,180.00	Stephensville	0.00	0.00
Clearwater	549.97	966.64	Mount Harmony, Riceville	33.38	120.38	Union Grove, Decatur	0.00	225.00
Cog Hill	175.00	700.00	Mount Pisgah	290.16	973.57	Union Grove, Niota	90.00	360.00
Conasauga	0.00	300.00	Mount Verd	0.00	100.00	Union Hill	274.25	1,035.87
Cottonport	0.00	229.68	New Beginnings	0.00	0.00	Union McMinn	400.00	1,600.00
Decatur, First	758.03	3,191.22	New Bethel	0.00	0.00	Valley Road	0.00	0.00
Dixon Avenue	55.00	220.00	New Zion	449.00	963.00	Valley View	0.00	310.00
Double Springs	166.00	664.00	Niota, First	182.99	542.73	Walnut Grove	0.00	625.47
Eastanallee	2,557.83	7,147.03	North Athens	0.00	75.00	West End	378.54	788.18
East Athens	966.60	2,506.39	North Etowah	754.61	2,339.41	West View	113.04	355.82
East Niota	166.00	498.00	Oak Grove	433.80	1,513.08	Wildwood	546.90	1,607.97
East View	0.00	0.00	Old Salem	311.43	1,080.94	Zion Hill	200.00	600.00
Englewood, First	540.75	1,967.76	Parkway	15.00	60.00			
						Total Receipts	17,986.59	60,325.30

*Contributions received after January 27th, will be reflected in next month's report.*

## Church News

Sanford Baptist Church welcomes their new **Pastor, Rev. Steve Beavers** who began his ministry there on January 22, 2012.

Brian Free & Assurance will be at **Pope Avenue Baptist Church** on Sunday, February 26th at 6:00 pm. Everyone is invited to attend.

### Please Note: Sunday School Literature Recyclers!

**The Baptist Center will no longer be accepting your old Sunday School literature!**

**At this time, we do not have anyone to sort/transport the literature to Alabama.**

## Volunteer Mission Trip Support

It's that time when men, women, boys and girls begin thinking of going on summer mission trips. The Association does have Volunteer Mission Assistance Money available. To receive Association assistance one must complete an application (obtained at the Association office) and returned to the office on or before **Thursday April 5, 2012** (Absolute Deadline). The office hours are M-F 8:00am - 12:30pm and 1:30 - 5:00pm. If you would like to receive Volunteer Mission Assistance Please Secure and complete your application without delay.

## Remember in Prayer

**Our churches without Pastors:**  
**Brookhill, East Athens,**  
**First Baptist Etowah,**  
**North Etowah, Short Creek, Union**  
**Grove Niota and Zion Hill.**

## Camp Cherokee

**Summer is coming! Make sure you call the Association Office to schedule your church/youth retreat at Camp Cherokee.**

## Need a Program for Senior Adults?

**Contact Joe Mason of Sautee, GA**  
**1-706-878-1049 (Home) 678-431-3818**  
**(cell) or [joemason@hemc.net](mailto:joemason@hemc.net)**

## Calendar of Events

### February

#### *True Love Waits Emphasis Month*

- 02-04**—Bivocational Pastors & Wives Retreat, Music Road Hotel & Convention Center, *Pigeon Forge*
- 13-19**—**Focus on WMU Week “Unhindered”**
- 21**—Financial Issues Facing Churches and Ministers, Knox County Baptist Association, 10:00 am—12:00 noon
- 21**—**Financial Issues Facing Churches and Ministers, Watson Chapel Baptist Church, Madisonville, 6:30 pm—8:30 pm**
- 22**—Financial Issues Facing Churches and Ministers, Hamilton County Baptist Association 10:00 am—12:00 noon
- 24-25**—**Total Life Encounter, Pigeon Forge**
- 24-25**—Handbell Festival—East TN, *Carson Newman College, Jefferson City*

### March

#### *Annie Armstrong Easter Offering*

- 01**—Every Believer a Witness—Pastor Training Clinic, *Sevier Heights Baptist Church, Knoxville*
- 02-03**—**Total Life Encounter, Pigeon Forge**
- 03-10**—Week of Prayer and Mission Study for North American Missions and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering
- 09-10**—Youth Evangelism Conference (YEC), Municipal Auditorium, Nashville
- 11**—**Association Celebration, McMinn County High School, 5:00 pm**
- 23-25**—Missions Get-Together, *Gatlinburg Convention Center, Gatlinburg*
- 24**—Bible Fun Field Day, AM Session, *Carson Springs Conference Center, Newport*
- 27**—**Vacation Bible School Clinic, North Etowah Baptist Church, 6:00 pm**



The Association Bible Drills will be held on Sunday April 1st at 2:00 pm

**East Athens Baptist Church**

The 2012 Southeast State Regional Drill will be held on Saturday, April 28th at 10 am at East Athens Baptist Church.

*Please note: this is a change in venue.*

## Words for Mission Awareness

*Judy Luck, Association WMU Director*

Who is WMU? WMU is the organization that has served with a biblical understanding of missions education and participation for over 120 years. With this approach, Women on Mission, Adults on Missions, young women in college, Acteens, RA Challengers, Youth on Mission, Girls in Action, RA Ambassadors, Children in Action, Mission Friends and last but by no means least Families on Mission have been and are the ‘hands of Christ’ locally and around the world. Everyone is learning about missions, praying for missions, supporting missions, engaging in mission action and witnessing, developing spiritually toward a missions lifestyle and participating in the work of the church and denomination. What a way to continue Bible Study, putting the body of Christ in action.

Who is WMU in 2012? Even though Woman’s Missionary Union has been “around” for over 120 years, being ‘on mission’ means we need to be connected in today’s world. Through the printed page – **Missions Mosaic** and the internet – **www.missionsinterchange.com**; we are providing the channel to hear God calling – “Come and be a part of building My Kingdom”.

February 13-19 is WMU Focus Week which means telling the church’s story on what and how your members have been on mission this past year. In this past year new men and women, youth, boys and girls have become a part of your church. After hearing and seeing what has been happening, they will want to be a part of building God’s Kingdom outside the church walls.

### Three reminders:

- 1) **Children’s Ministry Day**, March 17<sup>th</sup> (see page 5 for details)
- 2) Continue to give to build our **missionary house** in Mt. Juliet. Two church groups have called me about their gift. We can be a part of the bigger mission picture outside of our association. Our goal has been met but we can meet our second goal - \$1500.00. Will you be a part of this God-size ministry?
- 3) **Mission Get-Together and Connection**: March 23-25, at the Gatlinburg Convention Center. The theme is **Not Ashamed!** taken from 2 Timothy 1:8. Join over 2,000 women and girls for fun, fellowship (networking) and hearing God’s Word proclaimed from the Bible and in the lives of missionaries.

Until the next time, we are serving the Lord with gladness because we are laborers together with God.

## United in Kingdom Service

McMinn-Meigs  
Association of Baptists

350 North Congress Parkway  
Athens, TN 37303

Phone: 423-745-2248

Fax: 423-745-7693

Email: mmab@truevine.net  
www.mcminnmeigsbaptists.org

### Association Staff:

Director of Missions:

E. Ray Luck

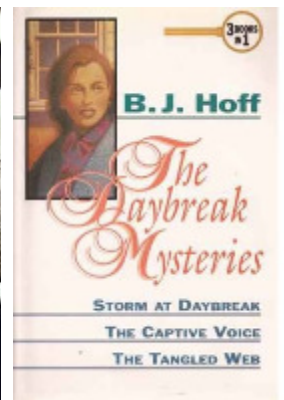
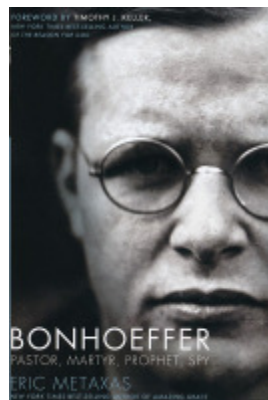
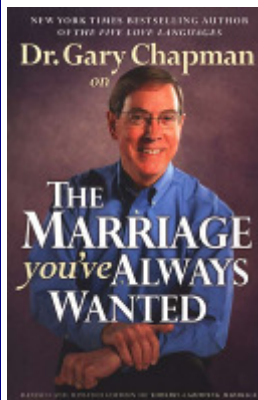
Secretary/Treasurer:

Kathy Fain

Non-Profit Org.  
US Postage Paid  
Permit No. 14  
Athens, TN 37303

Return Service Requested

## New Books in the Library



Attention:  
Church Clerks

*The 2011 Annual  
Minutes are ready and  
may be picked up at  
the Baptist Office!*

New  
DVD's in  
the  
Library

