



# THE VIEWPOINT

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SCBA

*Mobilizing churches to strategically engage our community with the Gospel of Jesus Christ*

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## **B** TOOLBOX

How does your church measure success?

For many churches, the ABCs of success are attendance, buildings and cash. While these are the easiest things to measure, pastors know they aren’t the best. There has to be a better way to measure discipleship success.

This is why 7 in 10 U.S. Protestant pastors (71 percent) believe there are ways to measure discipleship in a local church. Yet only 30 percent say their church has any specific methods for doing so, and just 5 percent strongly agree that they do. That gap tells an important story.

**Read more at <https://bit.ly/3O7q5iE>**

*Scan me*



**Author:** Robby Gallaty, Vick Green | Baptist Press

# Open Church Positions

## **Churches without a pastor:**

Knob Creek Baptist Church

Providence Baptist Church

*Please join me in praying for our brothers & sisters in Christ as they seek a pastor to lead them.*

## ***From Our Churches to the Front Lines***

*Please join us in praying for these members of our churches who are currently deployed.*

The Bingham Family (Valley View)

The Morrow Family (Valley View)

The Johnson Family (Shiloh)

The Carter Family (Shiloh)

## **Join a Team, Make a Difference**

Our mission at the Association is to mobilize churches to strategically engage our community with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We strive to do that by encouraging pastors, equipping churches, and engaging the community. This doesn't happen alone, that's why our Associational Teams are a vital part of our ministry in Sevier County.

The teams are:

Administrative Team, Discipleship Team, Ministry/Missions Team, Vision Team, & Campus Ministry Team.

These teams help guide, support, and resource our churches so we can make a greater impact together!

Please reach out to Justin to learn more & sign up to serve on one of these teams ... your voice matters!

# “The Power of Presence”

Written by Justin Johnson | AMS

We are living in one of the most distracted times in history. The digital world has made it easier to tune into what’s going on around the world and makes life easier for several things, but it also poses a problem for us.

Everywhere we turn, something is competing for our attention. Phones buzz, screens glow, and schedules fill quickly. Even in moments that should be quiet, our minds are often racing. It is possible to be surrounded by people and still not truly be present with anyone.

In the middle of all this, one of the most powerful things we can offer is something simple, yet increasingly rare: our presence.

Jesus modeled this perfectly. John 1:14 tells us, “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.” He did not remain distant or detached. He stepped into our world. He walked with people, listened to them, and met them right where they were. Whether it was a conversation at a well, a meal at a table, or a moment on the road, Jesus was fully present.

That kind of presence still matters today. In ministry, it is easy to get caught up in planning, organizing, and trying to keep everything moving forward.

Those things are important, but people are not just looking for activity. They are longing for connection. They want to know they are seen, heard, and valued.

Sometimes the most impactful ministry is not found in a program or an event, but in a moment. Sitting beside someone who is hurting. Listening without rushing. Praying with someone who needs hope. These are the moments where the love of Christ becomes real and tangible.

Psalm 46:10 reminds us, “Be still, and know that I am God.” When we learn to slow down and be present with God, it changes the way we show up in the lives of others. Our conversations become more meaningful, our prayers become more intentional, and our relationships grow deeper.

So here is a simple challenge for this season: be present. Put down the distractions, even if just for a little while. Look people in the eye. Listen carefully. Make space for God to work in the quiet moments.

In a distracted world, a present church stands out. And when we choose to be fully present with others, we create space for them to experience the presence of God.

-With you & for you,

*Justin*

# Men's Ministry Update

Written by Herb Caughron | Men's Ministry Director

Just wanted to remind everyone that the end of May is the deadline to let me know if you plan to go on the Annual Mission Trip. Last month there was an article with the details about the trip to Grey Kentucky June 21-26.

We will leave from the Baptist Center at 2pm and return Friday evening. There is no cost for the volunteers to go. Donations from churches and individuals have been made to the Men's Ministry account for this purpose. If you have any questions please contact me at 865-654-1937, and Please Pray for the team God puts together this year! We still have room for more.

Rick Gering is a bi-vocational lead pastor at Bethel Church in Sevierville, TN. In addition to pastoring, he is a church consultant through Thom Rainer's Church Answers. He assists churches in discovery of purpose, vision, values, and strategic initiatives. He can also provide leadership and staff development. He is currently available to come alongside you to help your church through a refocusing process. Please reach out to Rick at 479.561.7179 or [pr@bethelinthesmokies.com](mailto:pr@bethelinthesmokies.com).

## Lifeway® research

When I think of Mister Rogers' classic advice, I tend to think of pastors. The best pastors among us are known to do whatever it takes to selflessly and sacrificially help others. Yet, because they're so often capable helpers, we don't always think about the help they may need in their own lives, particularly in matters of the soul. Some pastors even struggle with receiving help, feeling that it points to a deficiency in their capacity or character. It's understandable, then, why 1 in 3 pastors (34%) say they feel isolated in their personal struggles.

**Read the full article at <https://bit.ly/4mgFWIs>**

**Author:** Dan Hyun | Baptist Convention of Maryland & Delaware

*Scan me*





### Spring Connection Check-In

*A simple check-in can strengthen relationships and show people they matter.*

#### 💡 3 Simple Steps:

- Reach Out: Send a quick text or message to someone you haven't seen in a few weeks.
- Be Intentional: Ask how they're really doing—and take time to listen.
- Offer Encouragement: Share a scripture, kind word, or let them know you're praying for them.

Small, consistent connections help build a strong and caring church community!

👉 Bonus Idea: Set a reminder to check in with one person each week this month.

## Praying for our Pastors

May 3<sup>rd</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup>

Terry Kirby | FBC Pigeon Forge  
Robert Owens | Red Bank First

May 10<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup>

Danny Sutton | Red Bank  
David Ayers | Richardson's Cove

May 17<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup>

Kim McCroskey | Roaring Fork  
Dan Spencer | FBC Sevierville

May 24<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup>

Jeremy Gresham | Second Sevierville  
Corey Cain | Seymour First

scan the code to  
sign up for text reminders



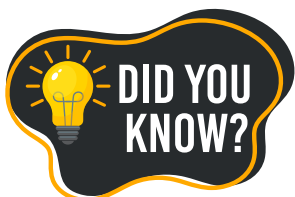
## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

### -Calendar-

- **May 3<sup>rd</sup>** - SBC Seminary Sunday
- **May 7<sup>th</sup>** - National Day of Prayer
- **May 10<sup>th</sup>** - Mother's Day
- **May 17<sup>th</sup>** - Children's Ministry Sunday
- **May 18<sup>th</sup>** - Associational Gathering  
6:30pm | SCBA Office
- **May 25<sup>th</sup>** - Office Closed (Memorial Day)
- **May 31<sup>st</sup>** - Disaster Relief Sunday

### -In Other News-

- We have recently agreed to update the terminology used for our Associational meetings to sound more inclusive. So we want you to know that YOU ARE INVITED to our Associational Gatherings on the last Monday of the month. Church Representatives (approved by the church) are welcome to join us for a time of fellowship, prayer, worship, & making decisions together for the glory of God! The bottom line is that we want you to know that everyone is welcome, this isn't a closed group of selected individuals and we would love to see every church represented. Please contact Justin for more questions about these gatherings!



*Cats prefer to sleep on their left. This preference may help them engage the right hemisphere of their brains, so they can better visually process their environments and dodge potential danger upon waking.*



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*Return Service Requested*

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Strategist**

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***Stay Connected!***  
**[sevbaptist.org](http://sevbaptist.org) | [campsmoky.us](http://campsmoky.us)**

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