



THE VIEWPOINT

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SCBA

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To New Beginnings!

Welcome to 2022!

Moving into a new year, for some, can feel overwhelming because they see it as a continuation of all the years they've had before..."It's just another year" they say. While it may be true that we're simply adding up the years, I believe each year brings something new & exciting to look forward to.

As we move into a new season together, I look forward to what God has in store for the association. Most of you know that I was approved to serve as acting Associational Mission Strategist (AMS) for this year, so I would first ask you to pray for God's wisdom and guidance as I do my best to lead in this capacity. I know there is some concern about my age & experience, but I want you to know that I am committed to investing in relationships, sharpening myself, and following God's leadership as I mature into the AMS this association deserves.

I've written an article that digs a little deeper into the focus I plan to have for this year, you can read it by visiting sevbaptist.org/beginnings

Your support and prayers are greatly appreciated, and I am thrilled to have this opportunity to serve you!
-Justin

MEN'S MINISTRY

BY HERB CAUGHRON | MEN'S MINISTRY DIRECTOR

Please join us in PRAYER for the Camp Smoky Caretakers "to be". PRAY for the Personnel Committee. PRAY for David and Teresa Burkett. PRAY for Robert and Deborah. PRAY for Justin Johnson. PRAY for the Camp Ministry of 2022. PRAY for our Association. PRAY for John and Kay Thomas serving in Waverly TN. PRAY for the victims of the Waverly Flood. There are so many things to PRAY for!

As we begin a New Year, let's commit to Daily Praying for these needs and we will see God do Great things here in Sevier County!

In case you missed the email that was sent out about Waverly, there is an urgent Need for Volunteers to help get families back in their homes. God has blessed me with the opportunity to go there twice to help a little with the work. You don't have to be trained to help with the work. This is a Disaster Relief ministry that is a great opportunity to witness to those in need. Remember there was One who gave us the example of meeting physical needs then He was given the opportunity to meet the Spiritual Need!

Thank You for All You do for God!
And remember, PRAY!!!

"Let's Get Out of Debt!"



Gary Blunt, our Associational Stewardship Director, is putting together a 12-week Financial Management course designed to help young married couples get out of debt, manage their money, & strengthen their marriage.

The courses will be held in a local church fellowship hall & will be provided at no cost to you!

Please register at
<https://tinyurl.com/2e763tx8>

Are you a church clerk or secretary?

You are invited to join us **March 14 - 16, 2022** at Belle Aire Baptist Church in Murfreesboro for the State Secretaries Conference!

This will help you stay up-to-date on policy changes under the new presidency as well as learn current trends as a result of the pandemic. *See Justin for more details!*



A FINAL WORD FROM ROBERT

BY ROBERT NICHOLS | D.O.M.

Seasons

“Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all long-suffering and teaching.” 2 Timothy 4:2

Everything Has Its Time: “1 To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven: 2 A time to be born, And a time to die; A time to plant, And a time to pluck what is planted; 3 A time to kill, And a time to heal A time to break down, And a time to build up; 4 A time to weep, And a time to laugh; A time to mourn, And a time to dance; 5 A time to cast away stones, And a time to gather stones; A time to embrace, And a time to refrain from embracing; 6 A time to gain, And a time to lose; A time to keep, And a time to throw away; 7 A time to tear, And a time to sew; A time to keep silence, And a time to speak; 8 A time to love, And a time to hate; A time of war, And a time of peace.” Ecclesiastes 3:1 - 8

Season: always involves change and that change brings about a new season. Seasons are periods of time in our lives we sometimes want to deal with and sometimes do not. The season of watching your children grow up ... but happily involved in the lives of their children.

The four temperate climate zones, our four seasons, not only force change by pushing forward everyday but also reflect the four seasons of life...human life. Spring = birth to the 20's; Summer = 20's to the 40's; Fall = 40's to the 60's & Winter = 60's to the 80's. At the moment, I'm in Winter.

Just as you, my family has gone through a lot of changes/seasons. And without a doubt, the above passage, 2 Timothy 4:2, has greatly influenced the changes in our lives.

I was thirty years old when we left Alabama headed for Louisville, KY to attend Southern Seminary. We have now lived outside of Alabama for 36 years. Let me share some of the seasons (change) we have experienced because of trying to be faithful and obedient to this Scripture and others.

From Athens, Alabama, (only a very few miles from TN) we moved to the seminary. From there to Winston-Salem, NC for my first full-time ministry position. This position involved a ton of outreach and education ministry of which I thoroughly enjoyed. From Beck's Baptist Church we moved to Dunbar, WV for the position of pastor with Fairlawn Baptist Church. I couldn't see going off into foreign missions without having experienced the ministries of pastoring/preaching/teaching. Our next change (because we had dedicated our lives to the Lord to be Foreign Missionaries years earlier) came as we moved back to Alabama for a short time before going to Richmond, VA, for several weeks of missionary training. Then another move back to Alabama before leaving the states for Costa Rica. We spent a year in San Jose in Spanish language school. Let me tell you; they were worried about this ol'clodhopper from Alabama trying to communicate. But it eventually came...the change of improving idioma skills.

"SEASONS" CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

"SEASONS" CONTINUED

The next move would be from language school to our nation of service, Uruguay. Our first term of 4 years was in Colonia with the following furlough in Athens, Alabama. We looked like the Clampetts taking all we possibly could as carry ons. Upon returning to Uruguay, we moved cross county to the Brazilian side to a city called Melo. We were able to do two terms in Melo. We moved back to Decatur and Huntsville, Alabama, for the two consecutive furloughs. After feeling God's will being impressed upon us to stay in the States because of family concerns; we did not return to Uruguay. That was one of the very hardest decisions I have ever made. I also thoroughly enjoyed the ministry in Uruguay because I traveled many miles every week, driving and walking, to carry out small group discipling Bible studies in homes. The most I ever had in one week was twelve different home Bible study groups. But perhaps the greatest blessing was that some first generation church members began accompanying me to these small groups.

After resigning from the IMB and finishing our furlough, God provided us with a place of ministry here in Sevier County. We returned to Uruguay to sort through 12 years of stuff. How incredibly difficult that was. Of course packing and moving is difficult enough. But the season of change that was forced on us to leave Uruguay and move back to the states was overwhelming. And God is always faithful. He provided an incredible opportunity for me and my family here in Sevier County for the past 13 years and 8 months.

As a married couple, Deborah and I have lived in Sevier County longer than anywhere else.

Deborah has worked in several medical social worker positions in the area. Way back yonder at Southern Seminary in Louisville, KY, she worked hard at acquiring her Master of Social Work in Program Directing. All these years of service and ministry along with her degree have culminated in God providing a great opportunity to serve His Kingdom here on Earth at KARM in Knoxville.

I, on the other hand, was given through this season of change an opportunity that I never thought could or would ever be afforded to me. To be able to serve Sevier County Association of Baptists as your Director of Missions has been a wonderful experience. Was it difficult at times? Yes, and I know that I was sometimes as much of the reason why as anyone else could have been. It is my hearts desire and prayer that it has been a blessing for the association as well.

I now enter the season of retirement. Thank you to so many in this association who have prayed, given, worked, partnered and supported me in so many ways. In reality, we actually pray, give, work, partner and support God's Kingdom in Jesus Name for His Glory and by His Grace as we do likewise for each other.

-Robert

Church Gifts			
October 2021			
Alder Branch	\$328.00	Mountain View	\$520.90
Antioch	\$800.00	Mount Zion	\$158.75
Banner	\$100.00	New Center	\$50.00
Beech Springs	\$771.16	New Era	\$296.90
Bells Chapel		New Salem	
Bethel	\$200.00	Northview	
Blowing Cave		Oak City	\$100.00
Boyds Creek	\$152.72	Oldham's Creek	\$246.50
Bradley's Chapel	\$50.00	Paw Paw Hollow	\$554.45
Calvary	\$25.00	Pigeon Forge First	\$542.94
Connect	\$100.00	Providence	
Covemont	\$100.00	Red Bank	\$377.37
Dripping Springs		Red Bank 1st	
Dupont		Redemption	
Faith Fellowship	\$100.00	Richardson's Cove	\$152.22
French Broad Valley	\$300.00	Roaring Fork	\$250.00
Friendship		Sevierville 1st	\$2,083.33
Gatlinburg First	\$50.00	Sevierville 2nd	\$150.00
Gists Creek	\$79.29	Seymour First	\$802.15
Grace	\$75.65	Shiloh	
Gumstand		Sims Chapel	
Henderson Chapel	\$175.00	Smithwood	
Hills Creek		Sugar Loaf	
Howard's View		Union Valley	\$100.00
Hurst Chapel		Valley View	\$285.00
Jones Chapel		Walden's Creek	\$60.00
Knob Creek	\$131.85	Walnut Grove	\$200.00
Kodak		Wears Valley	\$391.00
Laurel Branch		Williamsburg	
Laurel Grove		Zion Grove	
Lebanon		Zion Hill	\$300.00
Maples Branch	\$57.00	Individuals	\$725.00
Millican Grove		TOTAL	\$11,942.18

Roundtables

Moving into the new year, I would love the opportunity to sit down with each pastor to introduce myself & share what God has placed on my heart for the Association, find ways I can partner & serve with our churches, and hear your thoughts about how the Association can be a beneficial resource to its pastors & churches.

I've divided the churches into 6 regions based on location and I'll be sending out where we can meet together for discussion & fellowship. Also, I will be sending a short survey to each of our pastors ahead of time for a more personal response.

Thank you for this opportunity & I look forward to serving you!

-Justin Johnson

ASSOCIATION CALENDAR

Calendar

- Office will be closed Dec. 24th - Jan. 2nd -

- **Jan. 4** - Missions Committee Meeting
6:30pm | Office
- **Jan. 13** - Finance Committee Meeting
6:30pm | Office
- **Jan. 18** - Camp Smoky Committee Meeting
6:30pm | Office
- **Jan. 24** - Executive Council / Board Meeting
6:00pm (Council) Sm. Conference Room
7:00pm (Board) Lg. Conference Room

Anniversaries

- **Jan. 7** - David & Virginia Newman | Sugar Loaf
- **Jan. 22** - Corey & Melody Cain | Seymour First
- **Jan. 30** - Larry & Pat Henry | Sims Chapel

Birthdays

- **Jan. 4** - Joyce White | Paw Paw Hollow
- **Jan. 16** - Pastor Glenn Metts | Shiloh
- **Jan. 17** - Pastor Chuck Simpson | Williamsburg
- **Jan. 25** - Pastor Eric Hurst | Blowing Cave
- **Jan. 26** - Tami Barnes | Wears Valley First

Pastors Conference

In light of recent changes, we will not be meeting for the month of January. Be looking & listening for new opportunities to get involved beginning in February!





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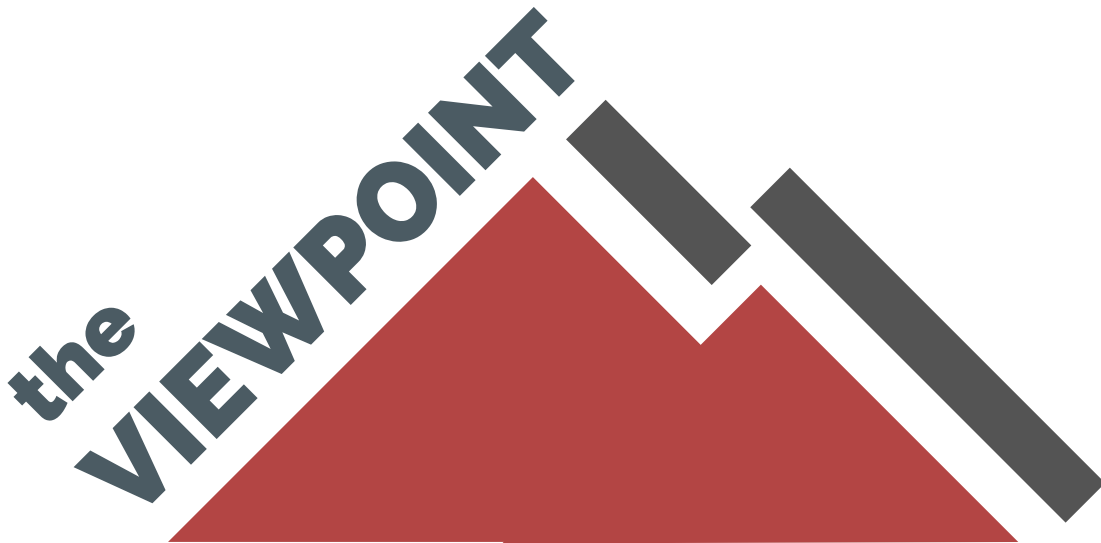
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The deadline for article submission is the 8th of each month.

To be added to our email list, please contact Justin at 865.453.0124 or justin@sevbaptist.org



JANUARY 2022

VOLUME 39, ISSUE 1

THANK YOU FOR SUBSCRIBING!