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Baptist Press

Southern Baptists need to recommit to Cooperative Program giving that embraces shared theological beliefs while accepting various differences among fellow churches, Jeff Iorg told the Executive Committee during its meeting Sept. 22-23 in Nashville.

Iorg, president and CEO of the SBC Executive Committee, said Cooperative Program giving is suffering from the cultural trend of "expressive individualism" seen in phenomena ranging from "obsessive sharing on social media to convincing children they can choose their gender," although he acknowledged programmatic and political reasons for the shift as well.

Read more at <https://bit.ly/42lr90z>

Author: Diana Chandler | LifeWay

Scan me



Open Church Positions



Churches without a pastor:

- Grace
- Providence
- Zion Hill

Did you know the SCBA can
provide resources for your church?



Let me know what your goals are & I'll get you connected to
the resources you need to bridge the gap!

Ready to Serve? Join a Team, Make a Difference

Part of our vision as an Association is clear: **Equipping churches and engaging the community with the hope of Christ.** But here's the truth—I can't do it alone.

That's why our teams matter so much.

Our Administrative, Discipleship, Ministry/Missions, Vision, and Campus Ministry teams are where the real work of ministry takes shape. These teams help guide, support, and resource our churches so we can make a greater impact together than any of us could on our own. And we need you.

If you're interested in learning more, please reach out to me directly. Team members will be recommended and voted on at our Annual Meeting in October.

Together, we can do more. Would you prayerfully consider joining one of these teams?

"Good Father, Difficult Times"

Written by Justin Johnson | AMS

Change is never easy. Whether it comes through the shift of seasons, transitions in ministry, or the personal storms we all face, change often brings with it a mix of emotions. Some of us welcome it with open arms, while others feel the weight of it pressing hard on our hearts.

For many, this season feels heavy. The days are getting shorter, the pace of life feels faster, and perhaps your heart feels a little weary. Maybe attendance has been down, the budget has been tight, or you're simply worn from trying to do more than you feel capable of doing. If that's where you find yourself, I want to remind you of a simple but powerful truth: God is near, and He is still good.

Psalms 34:18 says, "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." You are not walking through this alone. God has not stepped away or forgotten your struggle. He is present, even when it feels like silence surrounds you.

And Psalm 145:9 reminds us, "The Lord is good to all; He has compassion on all He has made." Even when our circumstances change, His character never does. He is still the same faithful Father who provides, who comforts, and who renews.

If things are going well for you right now, praise God for that. But I want to challenge you to look around and ask, "Who can I encourage this month?" Someone near you may be quietly walking through a dark valley, and your words of hope could remind them of God's goodness. Sometimes the most Christlike thing we can do is simply sit beside someone and say, "I'm with you, and God is too."

So wherever you find yourself in this season—whether you're weary or joyful—remember this: God is still good, and He is still near. Let that truth steady your heart and inspire you to share that same comfort with others.

With you and for you,

Justin



HARVEST OF HOPE GALA

for Camp Smoky Christian Retreat Center



Thanks to everyone who supported Camp Smoky at the Gala. We raised \$7,755.22!

*Thank you to our
Harvest Level Sponsor!*



AMS Address to the Churches

At our Annual Meeting, I shared something that God put on my heart several months ago. It's a simple question, but one that has the potential to bring about a big change within our Association and one, quite frankly, that many may push back on. It's become clear to me that the majority of our churches don't have the desire to carry the weight of Camp Smoky, and although there are a small handful that do, it isn't sustainable for the Association as a whole. So the question? *"What is the purpose of the Association?"*.

Camp Smoky has become a large focus at our Executive Board meetings and we seem to have little to talk about when it comes to Kingdom impact and community engagement. To be honest, that wrecked me. God took that question a step further and it was something I wrestled with for a while: *"Are supposed to be maintaining a campus facility or are we supposed to be encouraging pastors, equipping churches, & engaging the community with the Gospel of Jesus Christ?"*. I hope this is something we can answer together in the very near future because the health of our Association depends on it. Read more at the link below. Church families, I love you & I want the best for Sevier County Baptists ... let's come together & take a step of faith.

Your brother in Christ,

Justin



Read the full address @
<https://bit.ly/amsaddress>

Church Gifts			
September			
Alder Branch		Millican Grove	\$548.36
Banner	\$100.00	Mountain View	
Beech Springs	\$1,312.85	New Center	\$50.00
Bells Chapel		New Era	\$327.45
Bethel		New Salem	
Blowing Cave	\$180.00	Northview	\$300.00
Boyd's Creek	\$39.10	Oak City	
Bradley's Chapel		Oldham's Creek	\$283.19
Calvary	\$25.00	Paw Paw Hollow	\$383.90
Connect	\$100.00	Pigeon Forge 1st	\$404.59
Covemont		Providence	
Dripping Springs	\$660.77	Red Bank	\$200.00
Dupont		Red Bank 1st	
Faith Fellowship		Richardson's Cove	
French Broad Valley	\$300.00	Roaring Fork	
Friendship		Sevierville 1st	\$2,083.37
Gatlinburg First	\$50.00	Sevierville 2nd	\$125.00
Gists Creek	\$68.62	Seymour 1st	\$1,728.52
Grace	\$68.71	Shiloh	\$1,636.00
Gumstand		Sims Chapel	
Henderson Chapel		Smithwood	
Hills Creek		Sugar Loaf	
Howard's View		Union Valley	
Hurst Chapel		Valley View	\$285.00
Jones Chapel	\$378.50	Walden's Creek	\$60.00
Knob Creek	\$135.27	Walnut Grove	\$200.00
Kodak		Wears Valley	\$411.00
Laurel Branch		Williamsburg	
Laurel Grove		Zion Grove	\$227.00
Lebanon	\$309.00	Zion Hill	
Maples Branch	\$30.50	Individuals	
TOTAL		\$13,011.70	

Praying for our Pastors

November 2nd - 8th

Dan Spencer | FBC Sevierville
Jeremy Gresham | Second Baptist

November 9th - 15th

Corey Cain | Seymour First
Glenn Metts | Shiloh

November 16th - 22nd

Larry Henry | Sims Chapel
Wes Carr | Smithwood

November 23rd - 29th

David Newman | Sugar Loaf
Kevin Thacker | Union Valley

scan the code to
sign up for text reminders



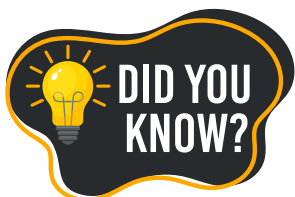
WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

-Calendar-

- **November 5th** - Pastors Learning Community
10:00am | SCBA Office
- **November 9th - 12th** - TBC Summit Gathering
Jackson, TN
- **November 18th** - Campus Ministry Team Meeting
6:00pm | SCBA Office
- **November 21st - 22nd** - Hearts on Fire
Pigeon Forge, TN
- **November 24th** - Executive Board Meeting
6:30pm | SCBA Office

-In Other News-

- 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. Also this year, one of our very own, Pastor Dan Spencer will be preaching on Sunday night during the Tennessee Reunion.



The average church saw offering levels rise 2.1% compared to 2024, according to LifeWay Research. Meanwhile, inflation grew 2.9%.





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Return Service Requested

**Associational Mission
Strategist**

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THE VIEWPOINT

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