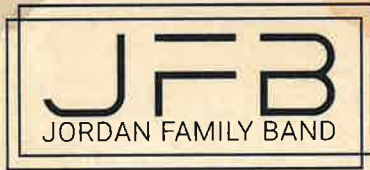


Sweetwater BAPTIST CHURCH

Dr. Paul Noe, Pastor
Rev. Mark Abbott, Associate Pastor/Minister of Music
Rev. Brian Ayers, Associate Pastor/Director of Operations
Rev. Jason Fitzgerald, Associate Pastor/Minister of Youth
Rev. Charlie Crews, Minister of Senior Adults
Mrs. Missy Ferraro, Children's Coordinator
Mrs. Tina Lancaster, Office Manager/Financial Secretary
Mrs. Renee Hope, Ministry Assistant

August 2025 Newsletter



Concert
August 3, 2025
Sweetwater Baptist Church
10:30AM

Celebration Sunday

Welcoming Back Pastor Paul

August 10, 2025

Worship 8:30am / 11:00am

Sunday School 9:45am

Evening Worship 6:00pm

BASIC CHURCH



Pastor Paul Noe
Begins New Sermon Series
on August 10th



**Chocolate
and
FRIENDS**
Sweetwater Baptist
WOMEN'S MINISTRY



Randa Jordan



AUGUST
SATURDAY **2** 10:00 AM
2025

AUGUST 2025 NEWSLETTER

PASTOR PAUL'S PARAGRAPHS

Dear Members and Friends of the Sweetwater Baptist Church:

Blessings! It is so good to be back at Sweetwater after my sabbatical. **I have truly missed you.** You are a precious people, and I love you dearly. Thank you for the wonderful privilege of serving you as your pastor and your overwhelming kindness to me. Mrs. Bobbi and I enjoyed our time away very much. We traveled, relaxed, and spent quality time with the Lord and our family. Thank you for the opportunity to be away to be renewed spiritually and rest physically. A special ***"thanks"*** goes out to our staff who served you so faithfully in my absence.

I am certainly looking forward to the **Jordan Family Band** being with us during the weekend of **August 2nd and 3rd**. I have been a follower of the Jordan family for many years. Randa will be speaking at ***"Chocolate and Friends"*** on **Saturday, August 2nd**, and the entire Jordan family will be ministering to us in concert on **Sunday, August 3rd**, during the morning worship service at **10:30 am**. You don't want to miss this exciting weekend of inspiration and worship.

I am so excited about starting a **new sermon series** about the **Church** on **August 10th**. I have written a new study book on the doctrine of the church. Each church member will receive a complimentary copy to utilize during this important study. The church is a sacred and divine institution that was established by Jesus Christ Himself (Matthew 16:13-20). In this sermon series, we will be examining the various aspects of the church. Some of the titles include ***"The Doctrine of the Church," "The Power of a Praying Church," "The Beauty of Unity,"*** and ***"God's Strategy of Evangelism."*** My prayer is that this series will help all of us to have a renewed commitment and appreciation for our church.

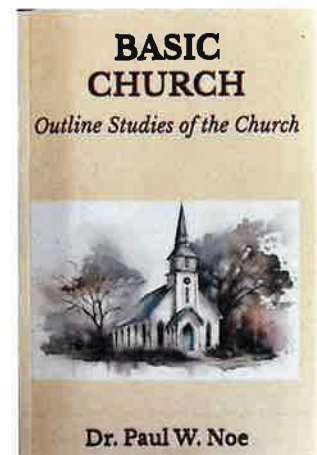
We will begin a new church year in September. Your **Nominating Committee** will be working diligently throughout the month of August to secure teachers, workers, and leaders to serve during the 2025-2026 church year. Let me encourage you to pray about where God would have you to serve at Sweetwater.

It is a joy and a privilege to serve you!

I ♥ MY
CHURCH

With a Pastor's Love,

Paul
Philippians 1:3



BRIAN'S BRIEFS

This month's spotlight is our Associate Pastor of Worship, Mark Abbott. The congregation sees Mark lead a few congregational songs, a choir anthem, and sing a special as a solo, duet, or with the quartet. I bet he wishes that is all he did. Here is a look behind the scenes of a typical week and responsibilities for brother Mark.

1. Mark directs and plans the music for the Adult Choir, Aiken Baptist Associational Choir, Handbells, Proclaim (youth), and works with Dawn and her team in Kids Choir.
2. Planning the music must be done months in advance. Mark spends hours listening to music, picking the songs, musicals, and anthems, ordering the digital copy of the music, marking and making copies for each choir, each choir member, the musicians, and placing them in the appropriate notebook.
3. Prepares for rehearsals for each of these choirs each week.
4. Plans the music and order of worship each week for both the am and pm services. This must be done every week whether he is in town or on vacation.
5. Enters all the words to the songs, order of service, Pastor's power point into the computer.
6. Plans for Adult Christmas, Easter, and special holiday musicals.
7. Works with Dawn in choosing the Kid's Musicals for Christmas and Spring.
8. Mark also sings for funerals for Sweetwater members as well as for those in the community as well.
9. He visits choir/church members at home, hospitals and assisted living facilities.
10. He directs our Right Now Media Subscription – A video discipleship ministry for all ages.
11. Works alongside Bill Little helping with the Audio/Video ministry of the church.
12. Serves as the unofficial IT guy for the church office.
13. Runs sound for special events and groups.
14. Helps with Joyous Seniors each month by setting up and running sound and even helping in the kitchen when needed.
15. Serves as the Aiken Baptist Associational Music Director directing a senior adult/retiree choir in the Fall and Spring each year.
16. Served this summer as one of the South Carolina Baptist Convention Summer Regional Coordinators for the State Music Department seeking to help build relationships among music ministers throughout his designated region of Aiken, Edisto, Edgefield, & Ridge Associations.
17. Works with Posey Funeral Directors in facilitating our GriefShare Program here at Sweetwater ministering to the needs of those who are experiencing grief and loss.
18. Working on finishing up his Doctor of Ministry at Knox Theological Seminary.

NOTE: Mark has the toughest job of all of us. There are over 400 people who attend Sweetwater which means there are over 400 different tastes of music and opinions of what kind of music that needs to be played. No matter what he chooses there will be people that do not like it. He is in a no-win situation. Remember, he leads us to worship King Jesus.

I am sure that I have left something off his busy schedule and things to do list. I do hope this will give you an idea of what he does. Make sure you give Mark a BIG thanks for what he does when you see him.

Music Moments with Mark

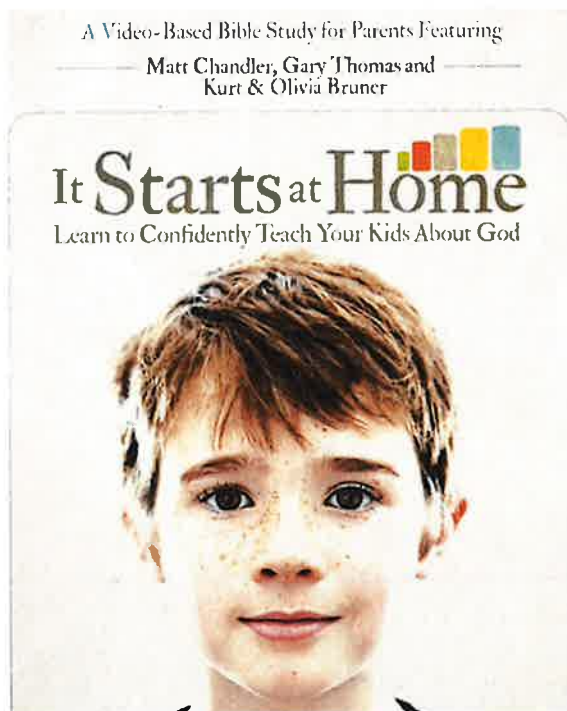
Dear Church Family,

I pray this article finds you doing well. I can't believe summer is already over!?! I wanted to share with you something that really blessed me as a pastor. A lot of times, as a worship pastor/minister of music, I am so busy trying to make sure everything is ready for our corporate worship services that I rarely have the time to step off the platform and get to know a lot of the people in the pew. I want to thank the Sisters of Sweetwater for providing an opportunity this past month to fellowship, enjoy a great meal, and get to know people that otherwise I might not have had the opportunity of meeting. I met a young couple who has been coming to our church for the past six months, as well as an older couple who had just recently started visiting. All their faces seemed familiar because I had seen them from a distance, however, because of the dinner I had a chance to sit around a table and start building relationships. I know it took a lot of work to put on something like that, so I want to say to our ladies (Sisters of Sweetwater) how much I appreciated them stepping outside of their own ministry to provide this important opportunity to our entire church. When the next 5th Sunday rolls around, be sure to sign up so you can have the opportunity that was afforded to me. As we grow as a church, let's look for ways to still connect around the table and keep what makes Sweetwater such a great church!

In closing, I want to point you to an important study on RightNow Media for parents with kids helping them learn how to teach your kids about God in your home. Let's face it, the few hours each week together at the church building are important, but spiritual formation will happen in our homes and within our families. May this resource be just another resource to help you point your kids to Christ!

Love & Prayers!

Mark



IT STARTS AT HOME: Learn to Confidently Teach Your Kids About God

Who is shaping what your kids believe?

In these busy, hectic days we take our kids to sports practices, games, music lessons, school tutoring, and other activities to give our children the best opportunities for success. But what if we're missing the chance to teach them what matters most?

Follow this link to learn more about IT STARTS AT HOME:

<https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/content/details/286>

SENIOR ADULT NEWS

LEAVING A LEGACY

The glory of young men is their strength, gray hair (of experience) is the splendor of the old.
Proverbs 20:29

We all want to leave a legacy for our family and friends, but how do we go about it? We do it by being intentional in all that we do, every single day! Here are some suggestions:

- Lead by living an example of a Godly life. You can't leave a Godly legacy without it! (Eph. 4:1)
- Leave a well-worn and well-marked Bible for your family. It will help with the first point!
(Psalm 119:105)
- Write a letter to your grandchildren on their birthday, every year. Share with them your love, experiences and prayers. (Deuteronomy 6:5-9)
- Foster an attitude of gratitude. Live a life of gratitude for what God has done for you, because it points people to Him! (1 Thess. 5:16-18; 1 Cor. 15:57)
- Be an encourager to everyone around you! (Hebrews 10:24-25)
- Be a vocal testimony for the Lord to your family, your church and your community.
Make much of Jesus! (Psalm 78:4)
- Be a prayer warrior! Pray for people and pray with people. Ask people, "How can I pray for you?"
(Philippians 4:6-7)
- Consider giving part of your estate to the Church and to Christian ministries when you die.
(Matthew 6:19-20)

Your Team-Mate In Christ

Charlie

UPCOMING EVENTS

Back to Mayberry! Associational Senior Adult Rally
September 11th at 10:30AM @ FBC Clearwater \$5.00

Joyous Senior's Luncheon on Friday, September 19th at 11:45am (Be sure to call in a new reservation!)

Apple Pickin' Trip on Thursday, October 9th

Myrtle Beach Getaway - December 1 & 2 - \$200 pps/double occupancy

On the beach accommodations/Alabama Theatre Christmas Show/Dinner & Breakfast included!



From Summer Fire to School-Year Faithfulness

What an incredible summer it has been for our students at Sweetwater! God has moved in powerful ways, and we're excited to share just a few highlights:

Summer Recap

Crossroads Summer Camp (July 7–11)

Our week at Crossroads Summer Camp was unforgettable. The theme, *Faithful*, reminded us of God's unchanging nature and called our students to respond with lives marked by trust and obedience. Hearts were softened, decisions were made, and our group came home **changed**—closer to Christ and closer to each other.



Crossroads Summer Camp at Anderson University



Back 2 School Bash (July 19)

We launched the new school year with energy, purpose, and community. From worship and devotions to fun games and fellowship, this lock-in was not just an event—it was a catalyst for deeper relationships and stronger spiritual momentum.



Summer of Service

Our youth also spent time this summer **serving members of our church family**—from yard work to practical help. Their hearts for service are growing, and it's been a blessing to see them live out their faith through action.



What's Coming in August

Tim Tebow Night – August 20

We're heading to Aiken, SC with our students to hear **Tim Tebow**, hosted by Western Midlands FCA. This night will be a powerful opportunity to hear about faith, perseverance, and living boldly for Christ. Please pray for open hearts and gospel conversations as we take students to this event.

Back to School




Students are now back in school—and that means they're back in one of the biggest mission fields they'll ever walk through.

Please join us in praying for:

- Strength and boldness to live for Christ at school
- Protection over students, teachers, and staff
- Opportunities for students to share the hope of Jesus
- Ongoing spiritual growth as we launch into fall

Encouragement for the Church

Your continued prayers, support, and encouragement make a difference. When you pray, serve, or write a note of encouragement, it reminds our students:

-  *They are not alone.*
-  *They are part of something bigger.*
-  *Their church believes in them.*

Let's keep investing in the next generation—**not just for their future, but for their now.**

Memory Verse for August

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind..."

– Romans 12:2

Here's to a strong start to the school year! Thank you, church family, for your faithfulness in shaping young hearts to follow Jesus.



In Christ,
Jason Fitzgerald
Youth Pastor, Sweetwater Baptist Church
jfitzgerald@sweetwaterbc.church

KIDZ Ministry CORNER

Dear Church Family,

Let's taco-bout the Children's Ministry! It is once again time for Kidz Mission to kick off for the year. On August 3, 2025, all three-year old children through fifth grade students are invited to join us in the Family Life Center from 6 - 7 PM, for tacos and missions. In the month of August, we will discover how missionaries Osvaldo and Vanessa minister to the people of Laredo, Texas. Your child will be studying about King David and creating Aztec art. Kidz Mission meets each Sunday night during the evening service in the Family Life Center.

Your help is needed! Please consider volunteering to help in the nursery. We need more workers for the 8:30 AM service, Sunday School hour, and during the 11:00 AM service. These precious children are so very important to our church. We want to make sure that we are planting the seeds of Christ in each person that enters our church building, including our youngest. You must be a member of the church and complete a background check to serve in our nursery. Please contact me to find out more information.

Love,
"Miss" Missy Ferraro

August

2025

MISSION KIDZ



SWEETWATER
BAPTIST CHURCH

Sundays, 6:00-7:00pm

Aug. 3rd - Kick off for the year

Family Life Center



Sunday, August 3, 2025			
9:15 AM Amy Clark	10:30 AM Babies - April and Claire Jernigan Toddlers - Hannah McClure & Barbara Schmidt		6:00 PM Clydie Blackwood
Sunday, August 10, 2025			
8:30 AM Babies - Alyss Noe Toddlers - Robin Lanham	9:45 AM Cindy O'Driscoll	11:00 AM Babies - Zach and Katie Canady Toddlers - Christie Amerson and Laurie Kinsey	6:00 PM Clydie Blackwood
Sunday, August 17, 2025			
8:30 AM Babies - Maribeth Weikle Toddlers - Charity and Tyler Lyons	9:45 AM Susan Holley	11:00 AM Babies - Katie Fitzgerald and Katie Johnson Toddlers - Irina Taylor	7:00 PM Clydie Blackwood
Sunday, August 24, 2025			
8:30 AM Babies - Lori Preston Toddlers - Wendy Byrd and Jackie Lyons	9:45 AM Amy Clark	11:00 AM Babies - Ginny and Avery Key Toddlers - Eric and Tina Wiggins	7:00 PM Clydie Blackwood
Sunday, August 31, 2025			
8:30 AM Babies - Angie Stuckey Toddlers - Taylor and Jordan Lyons	9:45 AM Cindy O'Driscoll	11:00 AM Babies - Nancy Britt and Stacie Griffin Toddlers - Terry and Amy Jarvis	6:00 PM Clydie Blackwood

Nursery is also offered on Wednesday evenings during the service and during adult choir practice. Thank you so much for choosing to share God's love with the youngest children. Please contact Missy at (803) 270-4055 if you are unable to be in the nursery on your assigned day.

SERVICE PERSONS OF THE MONTH



Thomas Crawford
United States Navy
Son of Lynda Gribek
Grandson of Wallace Widgeon

CPO Thomas Crawford, US Navy Reserves
Stationed at Dobbins AB in Marietta, GA
Son of Lynda Gribek



Garrett Neal
United States Navy
Nephew of Mark & Beverly Shaw

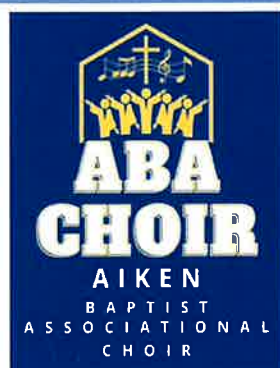
Dr. Garrett Neal, US Navy
Stationed at Bethesda, MD
Nephew of Mark & Beverly Shaw and
cousin of Mary Elizabeth Anderson

FINANCE MEETING

Wednesday, August 13th
Immediately following the
Midweek Worship Service

DEACONS MEETING

Sunday, August 17th
4:00 PM
Room WC106



Wed, Aug. 6th
at 1:00 PM
choir room

AUGUST DEACON SCHEDULE

3	(10:30AM) Bo Mabe	
10	(8:30AM) Abbie Prince	(11:00AM) Allen Simmons
17	(8:30AM) Dick O'Driscoll	(11:00AM) Junior Johnson
24	(8:30AM) Grant Preston	(11:00AM) Archie Coleman
31	(8:30 AM) Matt Robinson	(11:00AM) Jeff Kervin

Women's Ministry News

BLOSSOM
COTTAGE MINISTRY
WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

July 28 - August 9, 2025
Fall Registration

August 18, 2025
Fall Session Begins

September 13, 2025
Fall Gathering

Reach out for more information:
blossombiblestudy@gmail.com

Chocolate and FRIENDS
Randa Jordan

AUGUST
SATURDAY 2 10:00 AM
2025

JFB
JORDAN FAMILY BAND

AUGUST 3, 2025
JORDAN FAMILY BAND
ONE SERVICE 10:30 AM

Faith Family Fellowship Churchwide Lunch

Sunday, August 31, 2025
Following 11:00
Worship Service
Gym
\$5.00/Person

SEPTEMBER 6, 2025
10:00AM
FELLOWSHIP HALL

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAYS (JULY 27; AUGUST 3, 10, 17, 24, 31)

Early Worship Service - 8:30AM (Worship Center) (Aug 3- see schedule below)

Sunday School - 9:45AM (Aug 3- see special schedule)

Morning Worship Service - 11:00AM (Worship Center) (Aug 3- see schedule below)

Children's Worship - 11:00AM (FLC) (Aug 3- see schedule below)

Mission Kidz - 6:00-7:00PM (FLC) (August 3rd is the kick off for the year.)

Youth Bible Study - 6:00-7:00PM (C202) (July 27 Pastor Jason preaches; join Evening Worship Service)

Evening Worship Service - 6:00PM (Worship Center)

MONDAYS (JULY 28; AUGUST 4, 11, 18, 25; SEPTEMBER 1)

Food Pantry and Clothes Closet - 1:00-2:00PM (Donations)

Food Pantry (By Appointment) - 2:00PM

Clothes Closet - 2:00-4:00PM (Shopping)

WEDNESDAYS (JULY 30; AUGUST 6, 13, 20, 27; SEPTEMBER 3)

Faith & Fun (Youth) - 6:15-7:15PM (Gym)

Kidz Choir - 6:15-7:15PM (July 30 begins at 6:00PM)

Midweek Service - 6:30PM (Worship Center)

Celebration Choir Rehearsal - 7:20PM

FRIDAYS (AUGUST 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; SEPTEMBER 5)

Prayer - 6:00AM (Chapel)

WEEK OF JULY 27TH - AUGUST 2ND

JULY 27th - Evening Worship Service Youth Pastor Jason Fitzgerald preaches.

JULY 28th - Blossom Women's Bible Study Fall Registration begins

JULY 30th - Kidz Choir Kickoff - 6:00-7:15PM (FLC)

AUGUST 2nd - Chocolate & Friends - 10:00AM-1:00PM (Wild Game Pavilion) (RSVP)

WEEK OF AUGUST 3RD - AUGUST 9TH

AUGUST 3rd - Sunday School - 9:15AM (One Morning Worship Service Schedule)

AUGUST 3rd - One Morning Worship Service Jordan Family Concert - 10:30AM (Worship Center)

AUGUST 6th - Aiken Baptist Association Choir - 1:00PM (Choir Room)

AUGUST 9th - Kidz Choir Pool Party - 10:00AM-1:00PM (RSVP)

AUGUST 9th - Blossom Women's Bible Study Fall Registration ends

WEEK OF AUGUST 10TH - AUGUST 16TH

AUGUST 11th - Norma Pate Bible Study - 6:30PM (WC106)

AUGUST 13th - Aiken Baptist Association Choir - 1:00PM (Choir Room)

AUGUST 13th - Finance Meeting (immediately following Midweek Service) (WC105)

WEEK OF AUGUST 17TH - AUGUST 23RD

AUGUST 17th - Deacons Meeting - 4:00PM (WC106)

AUGUST 18th - Blossom Women's Bible Study Begins

AUGUST 20th - Aiken Baptist Association Choir - 1:00PM (Choir Room)

WEEK OF AUGUST 24TH - AUGUST 30TH

AUGUST 25th - Norma Pate Bible Study - 6:30PM (WC106)

AUGUST 27th - Aiken Baptist Association Choir - 1:00PM (Choir Room)

AUGUST 28th - Birthday Bash Seniors August Birthdays - 2:00PM (RSVP requested)

WEEK OF AUGUST 31ST - SEPTEMBER 6TH

AUGUST 31st - Fifth Sunday Food Drive

AUGUST 31st - Faith, Family, Fun Lunch - immediately following 11am Worship Service - FLC \$5/person (RSVP)

SEPTEMBER 3rd - Aiken Baptist Association Choir - 1:00PM (Choir Room)

SEPTEMBER 6th - Restored - 9:00AM-1:00PM (FLC) (RSVP)