

**The Smith County Baptist
Edition of the Baptist Record
SMITH COUNTY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
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**Associational Calendar
October 2014**

October 12—Annual Fall Meeting, FBC, Raleigh 4:00 p.m.
October 12—World Hunger Emphasis
October 27—FBC, Jackson—Ministers/Wives Conference
October 28 –29 MS Baptist Convention, FBC Jackson

October 2014

Rolling Acres Worship Schedule

10/05	Raleigh UMC
10/12	Sardis Baptist Church
10/19	Bethel Baptist Church
10/26	FBC, Raleigh

Operation Christmas Child

Shoe boxes are due in the Association office during the week of **November 10-14th, 2014.**

**Annual Church Profile Reports are due by
September 29, 2014.**

Church News

***100th Anniversary of Clear Springs Baptist Church
Smith County, Mississippi***

On June 8th, 2014 Clear Springs Baptist Church celebrated their 100th Anniversary. The church was established in July 1914. Pastor, Bro. Jeff Martin welcomed everyone. He then read the history of the church and rules that were formed in 1914. Mark Hammons compiled a CD of old photos . It was enjoyed by all. The church then enjoyed a delicious lunch followed by a time of singing and fellowship. Music guest were The Leaf River Boys and Kindered Spirit singers. Richard Simmons played the harmonica. The church wishes to thank everyone who took part in making it a special day.

Ministry Can Be Hazardous...

A call to ministry is a high and holy one, but it can also hazardous. Consider these statistics from the Spring 2014 issue of *Leadership Journal*:

80% of pastors are discouraged in their role as Pastors

40% of pastors seriously considered leaving the pastorate in the past 3 months

50% of pastors say they are unable to meet the demands of their job and are so discouraged that they would leave the ministry if they could, but have no other way of making a living

For every 20 pastors who go into ministry, only one retires from the ministry

45% of pastors say they experienced depression or burn-out to the extent that they need to take a leave of absence

Of 1050 pastors surveyed by the Schaeffer Institute, everyone of them-100%- has a close associate or friend from seminary who had left the ministry because of burnout, conflict in their church, or from a moral failure

70% of pastors say they do not have a single close friend, and the same percentage say they have lower self-esteem than when they entered the ministry

Denominational health insurance agencies report that medical costs for clergy are higher than the average professional group

These statistics may come as a shock to many readers. Clergy members who have or are experiencing some of the stated difficulties may think that the statistics are understated. Unfortunately, the following statement is sad but true, **“The church is the only army that shoots its wounded.”**

October has been designated as Clergy Appreciation Month. A resource guide is available online from Focus on the Family to aid in planning activities and congregational responses for the purpose of expressing honor, support and affirmation to pastors/staff and their families. The association can also make that guide available to churches.

<http://www.pastor-appreciation.net/focus-on-the-family.html>

How will your congregation convey appreciation to ministers and their loved ones in the coming days?