

THE



MAY-JUNE, 2003

INFORMER

The Informer is the official bi-monthly publication of the South Carolina State Association of Free Will Baptists, Inc.

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GIBBS TO SPEAK AT 2004 STATE MEETING.

Attorney David C. Gibbs, Jr. of the Christian Law Association will be the guest speaker for the 2004 annual meeting of the State Association of Original Free Will Baptists, Inc. Mr. Gibbs is known as one of the foremost authorities on the law as it relates to Christians and Churches but he is also a much sought after Bible Conference speakers declaring the whole counsel of God. He is well known by many in our ranks and excitement is already stirring in anticipation of his being part of our 2004 State Meeting- February 26-27, 2004: Hosted by the Beaver Creek Conference. {A description of the Christian Law Association can be found on the back page. This will better inform you of the ministry of Mr. Gibbs as well as provide information that may be useful to some of our Churches. }



PAY THE PREACHER

1Ti 5:17 ¶ Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine. (1 Tim 5:18) For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward.

One of the subjects that people want a preacher to NEVER preach on and never mention is the subject of pay. It is assumed that if a preacher mentions money in his sermon (other than ways for members to get lots of it via prayer and obedience!) then he is a money hungry hypocrite. Because of this perception many church members and leaders are unaware of their responsibility to adequately support those who minister to them.

Most preachers could earn a lot more money for a lot less work but the fire that burns in their heart from the call of God goes beyond dollars to their duty to God and their flock. So year after year they suffer in silence because of lack of knowledge or unconcern by church members. **What can you do?**

1) A Pastor should be considered for a raise EVERY year. If the church budget will not allow a raise then the Pastor needs to know that it was at least considered.

2) The attitude of the Church should be "How much can we give to this servant of God." not "How little can we pay and get by with". (If paying your pastor an adequate salary ruins him then he has more problems than money!). If YOU want an adequate salary then shouldn't you want the same thing for your Pastor?



BUDGET PLANNING

SCFWB YOUTH CAMP

Camp Beaver Lake
Patrick, SC

Junior and Teen Week-[Juniors and Teens will have separate services and classes]

July 28-Aug 1, 2003

Camp Evangelist:

Junior Rev Shiloh Hackett
Teen Rev Daron Dwyer

Cost:

Full Payment by July 15 \$84.00

\$30.00 deposit

postmarked by July 15 \$88.00

Payment after July 15 \$92.00

(Cost includes a canteen ticket worth \$10)

Registration forms can be obtained from the camp director, the SCFWB State Office, or downloaded from the state web site- www.SCFWB.com)

Rev. Richard Conyers,
Director

127 Armory Road

Union, SC 29379

Home: (864) 545-6347

Church: (864) 545-6860

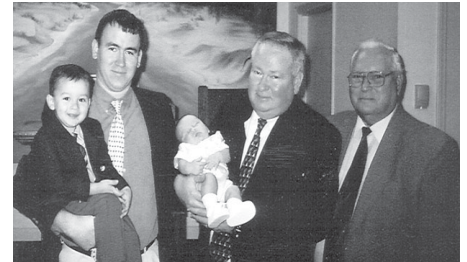


CHURCH NEWS

Email articles about events at your church to Mike@SCFWB.com. If possible, attach pictures (Jpeg or Tiff format resized to 2 inches wide- let your picture program set the height so the proportions will remain correct. 150 dpi or higher if possible.). Identify all people in the photo. { All Pictures cannot be used because of space and quality }

Put the SCFWB State office (P O Box 13266, Florence, SC 29504) on your church mailing list to receive any materials you mail out (Also your email list if you do special Email mailings). We would even love to receive a copy of your weekly Bulletin! The SCFWB State Office will help promote the ministry of your Church if you will keep us informed.

Midlands FWB Church, Columbia, SC: Four generations of Free Will Baptists and four generations of Baxley family were present on May 11 (Mother's Day) at Midlands FWB Church in West Columbia. They came together on this special day for the dedication of Bryson Baxley to the Lord. Pastor Ernest Barnes rejoiced in the large number of church members and visitors who also attended this special service.



l-r: Brian Baxley, Jr, Father Brian Baxley, Bryson Baxley, Grandfather Ranae Baxley, Great Grandfather Al Baxley

Pastor Phillip Tipton and the Congregation of **New Prospect FWB Church**, Pamplico are rejoicing in the refinished pews in their Church. Sun shining through windows had faded materials and peeled varnish but a problem was turned into a plus as the church joined together and raised the money for this project so that the church now has a new look inside.

Heartland FWB Church rejoiced in the dedication of their new outdoor shelter on Sunday, June 1st. Pastor Eddie Hinson said that the vision of the church was to use the overgrown and almost useless



land behind the church for the glory of God so they began clearing the land and preparing it to be used for singings, special meetings, and camping. The 30 by 60 shelter is completely paid for (largely due to the special offering taken up by the young people of the Church each week) and work is progressing on landscaping the grounds and completing the access road (which will be named "Gandy Lane" for one of the most faithful members of the Church). This is just another way Free Will Baptists are using every means they can to reach their community for the Lord.



An 84 years young lady provides special music



Trustees hold the ribbon while Pastor Eddie and the Church treasurer cut the dedication Ribbon.

2003 STATE OFFICERS

Moderator	Sherwood Lee (SC)
Assistant Moderator	Buddy Seay (CA)
Clerk	Todd Smith(BC)
Assistant Clerk	Marty Cox (CA)
Treasurer	Joe McKnight (SC)
Assistant Treasurer	Wayne Snipes (EC)
Member at Large (Lower State)	Doug Mathis (EC)
Member at Large (Upper State)	James Sanders (BC)

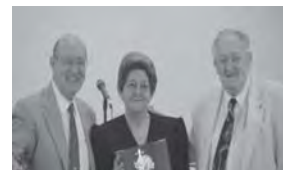
Pastor Chris Fannin says **Lebanon FWB Church**, Effingham is "bursting at the seams". So many people are being saved and attendance is increasing so much until they are having to knock out walls and put in more pews-Glory!

Former members, family, and friends packed the sanctuary as the congregation of **Southside FWB Church** in Darlington met on Sunday, April 27th for their **50th Anniversary- Home Coming** celebration. A very interesting Sunday School lesson was presented before the church met to celebrate this special day in their history. The church's past was represented by special music from the Senior Choir, its present was represented by the regular choir, and its future was displayed in specials by the children's choir.



The Youth Choir sing out for Jesus.

Pastor Leroy Lowery then led in a special recognition service in which founding pastor, Rev. Clarence Lambert was honored by a special plaque given to his family members. Also recognized was Mrs. Ada Miles, wife of former Pastor, Rev. Washington Miles. Plaques were also given to charter members and several special members.



Pastor Lowery and members of the Lambert Family.



Pastor Lowery presents a plaque to Mrs. Ada Miles

The Morning message was a powerful call to "Remove not the Ancient Landmarks" by Pastor Lowery that brought many people to the altar to recommit themselves to standing for God and His Word. A wonderful dinner preceded the afternoon sing by the "Crossroads Quartet". Southside FWB Church also hosts a daycare ministry and is the home of Pee Dee Bible Institute.

May 12, 1996 was when it all began. 38 people decided to leave the church they had been attending and begin a new work for God. They called this church, **Liberty FWB Church**, Lancaster, SC.



Inside the New Church

At first they met in homes of the members. Then God miraculously opened the door for them to rent the local National Guard Armory. Six months later another armory closed and this armory had to be used so they moved into an old store front building that they remodeled. Then they were able to purchase land and build their first building (Which was dedicated on Sunday, April 2, 2000).



Pastor Tim

Gloriously, this building was filled from the time it was dedicated and plans were already being made for a much needed sanctuary. On Sunday, May 18, 2003 Pastor Tim Larrimore led in the dedication of this \$700,000 sanctuary (with additional educational rooms) to the Glory of God. 366 people attended this service and it was evident that this new sanctuary was already almost too small for this growing congregation- Glory! Another example of God's mighty work among Free Will Baptists in South Carolina.



New Church with old Church (now fellowship building) to the right.



Pastor Todd

Pastor Todd Black and the congregation of **Converse FWB Church**, Spartanburg, SC are rejoicing in God's recent Blessings. The Church has grown to such an extent since his arrival until they were able to upgrade him to full time status beginning June 1st. That was immediately followed by a very successful "Family Revival" with Rev. Buddy Seay, Jr. as Evangelist.

Brother Todd believes that most of the success can be attributed to the practice they have of praying at the cross each service. A large cross with the names of lost loved ones is brought to the altar each service and the men of the Church gather around and pray for God to redeem these souls from the captivity of sin. God has honored this effort with a large number of people being saved so far this year.





Una FWB Church, Spartanburg is happy to report that the gifts and prayers of SCFWB have enabled them to complete their new building and move into the beautiful new facilities. There are still several items that need to be taken care of but it was a joy for the State Executive Secretary to get to preach in this new facility recently. It is a shining testimony in this area about the love and concern of Free Will Baptists.



Pastor Ken Cash welcomes people to the new Sanctuary



Inside Una's new Sanctuary

In addition to the beautiful new Sanctuary (That is large enough to place the entire old church building inside!), the facility also has several class room, rest rooms, and office space. Pastor Ken Cash now looks forward to the day this new church is just as full as the old church used to be.



Pastor Cyrus Shoffner

Faith Free Will Baptist Church, Darlington, SC celebrated their 30th Anniversary/Home Coming on Sunday, May 4th. A special musical concert by "Mercy River" replaced the Sunday School hour; and stirred the hearts of the congregation. The Morning Message was delivered by State Executive Secretary, Rev. Mike Jones, before everyone adjourned to the fellowship building for a delicious FWB meal.



Mercy River



Mrs Annie Mae Warren Davis, widow of the late Rev Mitchell Davis went to be with the Lord on Monday, April 14, 2003. She was a "preacher's wife", a homemaker, a member of Liberty FWB Church, Lancaster, and will be missed.

334,500 pennies!!! That was the offering given during Vacation Bible School at **Fairview FWB Church**, Spartanburg. People in the classes were divided into two groups- Love and Joy- and points were awarded for visitors brought, Bibles brought, lessons studies, and the weight of the offering- so everyone brought their offering in pennies! It made for a very exciting VBS; and was a big help to the building fund. Rev. Tim Hackett is the pastor of this growing Church.



PREPARING FOR DEATH: Death many times comes very sudden. Not only does it leave an empty place in the heart of those who love you but it also presents them with many questions that must be answered very quickly. Fill out this list, update it each year, and put it some where your loved ones will know about.

- 1) Are your Sins forgiven and placed under the atoning blood of Christ?
 - 2) Who do you want to preach your funeral? Where do you want the funeral service held?
 - 3) What songs do you want sung at your funeral? Where do you want to be buried?
 - 4) Where are the Pass words for your internet, bank, and other accounts kept.
- Where are life insurance, wills, and other papers that may be needed quickly in the event of your death kept?

MISSION MESSAGES

BRAZIL MISSIONS REPORTS:

Aycocks: Looking for a VBS Project. Missionary to Brazil, David Aycock, is looking to begin a new church on the West Side of Barbacena. He needs to purchase 4 lots at \$6,000 per lot. Any money for this project should be designated to the Brazil Westside project and sent to the SCFWB State Office, P O Box 13266, Florence, SC 29504).

Pooles: The Marincek FWB Church in Ribeirao Preto will be having evangelistic meetings each weekend in June. We plan special services each Saturday night, Sunday morning, and Sunday night. Through what we call "Project Andrew" we are encouraging our people to follow Andrew's Example of bringing people to Christ by inviting family, friends, neighbors, fellow workers, and fellow students to attend these special services. The speakers will be 2 FWB national pastors, 2 FWB missionaries, and 5 students from the FWB Seminary of the Brazilian Association of FWB Churches. The Seminary also will present special drama presentations each night. The Children will lead the services the first weekend, the youth the second weekend, the ladies the third weekend, and the men the fourth weekend. The first weekend in July is the anniversary of the Church so we plan special services for that week end also with dinner on the ground.

Please pray for these meetings. Three of the young men will be preaching their first sermon. God blessed us this past weekend with three young men coming forward to get their lives right with the Lord. Our prayer is that the Lord will do great things this month for His glory.

Please continue to pray about our deficient account. Bobby and Geneva.

Moores: The Lord has been blessing the ministry in Uberlandia. In the first five months of this year there have been five first-time salvation decisions. We praise the Lord for His working in the hearts of people to draw the lost to Himself. One of the recent converts is an elderly man named Otavio. He is 80 years old and, due to health problems, both of his legs have been amputated. Otavio's two sons have attended the church for many years and have faithfully prayed for his conversion and they, along with the church, rejoice in his salvation.

Other encouraging signs of growth this year include an average of 15-20 teenagers in the Saturday night youth meeting. Sunday night attendance for the past two Sundays has been 140. Offerings have steadily increased and we have visitors just about every Sunday night.

Please continue to pray for the church here and for God to use us to reach more souls for Christ in Brazil. Andrea, Andea, Levi.



Marincek FWB Church Youth sing about the Lord.



Hispanic Ministry Report. June 1, 2003. Our hearts were saddened because two families that had been attending our church left to go back to Puerto Rico and Mexico but we are rejoicing in God's continued blessings. We had 51 in attendance today with a good Spirit. This week (June 4th) we celebrate our first year in this country. Sometimes we miss our friends, family, and church but God supports us all the time and He has given us a special family here- The family of God. We are grateful for the many brothers and sisters in South Carolina who love us, pray for us, and support our ministry.

It is difficult sometimes in a strange country with a different language but we believe this work is very important because the people we reach do not know about Jesus or the good news of Salvation. Please continue to remember us in your prayers and support.

Thank you and God bless you so much. Gerardo, Maria, Lucas, and Franco.



Youth Choir

2003 S.C. Contestants to the National Youth Conference.

MEMORIZATION: 1st Grade- Jordan Evans (Horse Branch). 2nd Grade- Janie Bowers (Greenville First). 3rd Grade- Kaylynn Wells (Temple). 5th Grade- Allyssa Brogden (Temple). 6th Grade- David Bowers (Greenville First). 9th Grade- Mary Kathryn Driggers (Horse Branch).

BIBLE BOWL- First Florence- David Gibson, Caleb Creech, Hannah Postlewaite

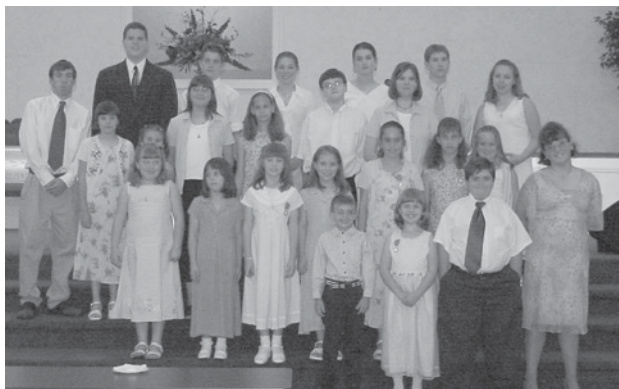
MUSIC and ART-

Age Group A (1st - 3rd Grade): Temple Kids (Temple)-Small Ensemble. Whitney Thipen (Horse Branch)-Vocal Solo. Camille Driggers and Whitney Thigpen (Horse Branch)- Vocal Duet. Emily and Ellen Parrish (Temple)-Group Drama. Crystal Hyman (Florence First)- Keyboard Solo. Emily Parrish (Temple) Pottery. Kala Kimbrel (Temple)- Graphics. Ellen Parrish (Temple)- Art painting.

Age Group B (4th - 6th Grade): Ashley and Allyssa Brogden (Temple) Vocal duet. Maggie Driggers (Horse Branch)- Vocal Solo. Pheobie Singletary (Bay Branch)- Keyboard Solo. Ashley and Allyssa Brogden (Temple)-Group Drama. Horse Branch Chorale- Small Ensemble.

Age Group C (7th-9th Grade): Mary Kathryn Driggers, Rebecca Cannon, Maggie Driggers (Horse Branch)- Vocal Trio. Tiffany Johnson (Horse Branch)- Vocal Solo. Brandi Floyd (Horse Branch)- Individual Drama. Bryce Mims (Horse Branch)- Vocal Solo. Mary Kathryn Driggers and Maggie Driggers (Horse Branch) Vocal Duet.

Age Group D (10th-12th Grade): Rebekah Player and Halie Garrison (Temple) Vocal Duet. Jackson Watts (Horse Branch)- Individual Drama. David Gibson and Heather Postlewaite (Florence First)- Keyboard Duet. Horse Branch Drama- Group Drama. Hannah Postlewaite (Florence First)- Vocal Solo. David Gibson (Florence First)- Keyboard Solo. Grant Cannon (Horse Branch)- Graphics. Rebekah Player (Temple)- Three Dimensional Art.



Contestants at the Recent State Youth Conference Meeting

Rev Chuck Thornton is a licensed minister of the Palmetto Conference and is available for Pastoral duties as well as to speak. He is the son-in-law of Rev Johnny Bullman.



Contact him at 864-439-5852



Looking for a beautiful **Sign** that will help visitors find your church. The SCFWB Christian Book Store can get signs printed with the name of your Church and directions to the Church. These signs are 18 inches wide by 24 inches tall, brilliant red on a gleaming white background. Cost is \$49.99 for regular paint and \$69.95 for Reflective paint. Contact YOUR SCFWB Christian Book Store at 1-800-319-2346 to order.

Alton Loveless, former General Director of the National Sunday School and Church Training Department, and Randall House Publications, Nashville, Tennessee, is available to conduct seminars for churches or organizations.

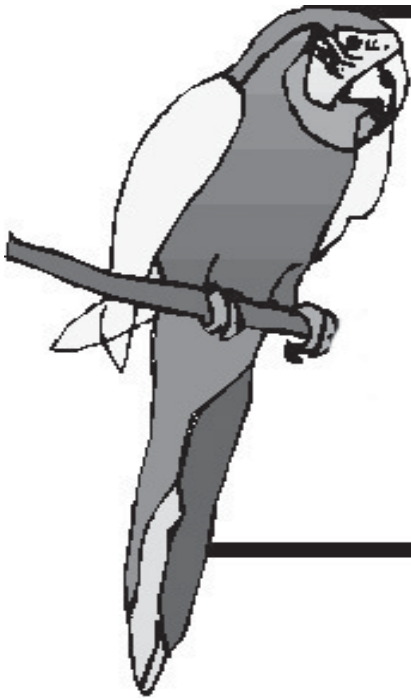
Dr. Loveless has published more than 490 articles and conducted over 1100 seminars in 48 states and 34 foreign countries. He has been widely used as a Christian education consultant, workshop leader, or minister, by 68 denominations in churches of all sizes. He has more than 80 seminars or workshops he has done, or is willing to create a program to fit the needs of any group.

His training in Christian education began with Scripture Press Publications which opened the door to a broad and diverse knowledge of what churches have done, or is doing to build a great church. His interest continued in church growth and teacher training while with Randall House Publications, where he created Outreach magazine, a publication on church growth and the training of workers. This full colored magazine has been praised by people both in and out of our denomination.

Alton, a Free Will Baptist minister for 48 years, attended Hendrix College, graduated from Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College, and earned a Ph. D. in Business Administration from Columbia Pacific University. He has been awarded a number of honorary degrees and business awards.

A brochure with a list of workshops and testimonies is available by writing: Alton Loveless, 1008 Ainsworth Circle, Antioch, Tennessee 37013. Phone 615-361-3896 or email alton.loveless@prodigy.net





South Carolina Women Active for Christ
Annual Retreat at Lookup Lodge

September 5-6, 2003.

The theme this year is BIRD (Believers In joy Rejoicing Daily). Guest speaker will be Annette Aycock (Missionary to Brazil). Cost is \$48 (includes lodging and meals). The cabin assignments will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

A \$10 registration is due by July 1st and should be sent to Mrs. Patty Newton at 90 Blackstock Road, Inman, SC 29349.

Mercy means you deserve punishment and don't get it.
Grace means you get something you don't deserve!
Mercy keeps the axe from falling on your head.
Grace uses the axe to build you a house!
Men seek for Mercy. Our Great God bestows Grace!

The new **dorm parents** in the Girl's Dorm at the SCFWB Home for Children are Steve and Donna Effler. This is a little about who they are, written by Donna.

We grew up together in the same small town of Old Fort, NC. We were married at Old Fort FWB Church 29 years ago. We have 3 children, Jennifer, Jeremy and Mary. Our older children are married and we have 5 grandchildren and a new one on the way. Our youngest daughter Mary will be a sophomore at the FWB Bible College in Nashville, TN. this fall.

Steve and I moved to Newport News, VA and were members of Faith FWB Church in Carrollton, VA since 1988. I taught the primary Sunday school class and children's church. My husband sings special music and drove the church van. We are now the proud parents of six new daughters at the FWB Home for Children. Our girls range in age from 11 to 17. We are excited about our new life here in Turbeville.



PASTOR POINTERS:

"He who aims at nothing normally hits it!". Pastors needs weekly goals if they plan to accomplish much for the Lord.



Crisis and Circumstances will become the masters of your time and energy if you do not have a plan of action to act as a reference point. And if you don't work during the week you will face each Saturday night with a search for a sermon outline you can plug into the gap knowing that Sunday Morning will bring the same crowd for a congregation you always have because there is no real reason for visitors and new people to choose to attend your church.

Here are some goals you need to put in your weekly "to do" list.

Daily Devotional Time- Feed your soul from God's word and the works of other men of God. Your people will not catch fire from you if your heart is cold and barren.

Daily Prayer Time- Have a Prayer List for needs and a Praise list for answers. Use a Member list and a Mission list to pray for people and situations. If you do not work at prayer you will end up with a powerless Message and Ministry.

Daily Study Time- Study to show yourself approved unto God. A workman that needs not to be ashamed; rightly dividing the word of Truth. Devotions feed you. Study finds bread to feed the multitudes of hungry hearts you face.

Visitation Goals- Visit Members this week. Knock on New Doors this week. There will be few visitors on Sunday if there is little visiting during the week.

Witnessing Opportunities- You can't always plan your soul winning opportunities but if you don't plan to witness you will find yourself going week after week without sharing the gospel except in sermons. If you are soul conscious then you will find opportunities to share Jesus.

The **Christian Law Association** is a "ministry of legal helps." Its purpose is to provide legal assistance to Bible-believing churches and Christians who are experiencing legal difficulty in practicing their religious faith because of governmental regulation, intrusion, or prohibition of one form or another. CLA will only represent churches which are clear on the doctrine of Jesus Christ as the only way of salvation, and which are clear on the Bible as the only Divinely-inspired, infallible, and complete Word of God by which all areas of faith and life practice are to be controlled.

CLA is funded wholly by concerned Christians and churches who wish to support the fight for religious liberty in the United States, and who also have a desire to make it possible for CLA to provide cost-free legal assistance to Bible-believing churches and Christians who are being sued, or threatened with suit, for the Biblical faith.

Since 1978 when the Christian Law Association began operations, the demand for assistance has exploded. CLA received in excess of 69,000 phone calls in 2000, not counting the thousands of pieces of correspondence from those who are in some way facing legal difficulties for doing what the Bible commands. These cases involve Christians arrested for witnessing to others, students being told they do not have the right to read their Bibles in public schools, churches being told they cannot exist in certain zoning areas, etc.

Due to the financial support of concerned Christians, CLA is able to provide legal representation at no cost to thousands of pastors and believers who have been sued, arrested, or jailed for the Biblical faith. CLA legal missionary attorneys and support staff do not bill for their time or their expenses, regardless of whether the person or ministry seeking our assistance financially supports CLA. In fact, the vast majority of those assisted never send any financial support to the ministry, yet CLA counts it an honor to serve them in their time of need.

Please pray for the ministry and staff of the Christian Law Association, as well as for those who are under attack for their faith. Your prayers help more than you realize. If the ministry of the Christian Law Association can legally serve you in any way, it would certainly be our honor and delight to do so.

CLA serves through the following ways:

- Free legal defense of those facing difficulties for the Biblical faith
- Free legal counsel to churches and Christians for their ministries
- Legal seminars for ministries to help prevent lawsuits
- The Legal Alert* radio program broadcast on over 760 stations around the world
- Legal books and other resources to inform Christians of their rights
- Preaching in churches across the country
- Publication of a monthly newsletter, *The Legal Alert*
- Free legal consulting to local, state, and federal officials and legislators to provide maximum religious liberty
- Intercessory prayer ministry for requests sent to the ministry offices

NEW PASTORS:

Rev. Chris Todd is the new pastor of Calvary FWB Church, Georgetown. Since his arrival the church has shown solid growth in attendance and renewed energy in its programs.

Rev Danny Stone is the new Pastor of Tabernacle FWB Church, Coward. He began by serving as interim Pastor but everything fit so well until it was made permanent. He has quit his secular job and is now working full time for the Lord and the Church.

