

THE



DECEMBER 2005

INFORMER

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

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STATE ASSOCIATION MEETING

The 64th Session of the State Association of the South Carolina State Association of Free Will Baptists, Inc. will meet February 23-24, 2006. It will be hosted by the Eastern Conference at Gilead FWB Church, Lake City, SC (Pastor Larry McAlister).

Sermon Speakers will be Rev. Marty Cox (Mt Trolly FWB Church, Galivants Ferry, SC), Rev. Roy Roach (SCFWB Home for Children, Turbeville, SC), and Rev. Glenn Johnson (Good News FWB Church of Chesterfield, VA). Devotions will be delivered by Rev. Chris Todd (First FWB Church of Greenwood, SC), Rev Todd Black (Turning Point FWB Church, Boiling Springs, SC), and Rev. Cyrus Shoffner (Faith FWB Church of Darlington, SC).

The theme for this year's meeting will be "Moving Forward in the Father's Business". A very large attendance is expected. (Anyone who desires display booth space should contact the SCFWB State Office- 843-662-5010- as soon as possible). Digest of Report reports are to be submitted to State Clerk, Rev. Todd Smith no later than January 18th and should contain all necessary financial data.

2006 STATE ASSOCIATION MEETING
February 23-24, 2006
Gilead FWB Church, Lake City, SC

MOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS:

--Holiday Inn Express- 202 N Ron McNair Blvd, Lake City 843-394-8400 (\$57.99- all rooms)
--Days Inn- 170 S. Ron McNair Blvd, Lake City 843-394-3269 (\$55.99 King, \$59.99 Double).

STATE OFFICE RELOCATION

The SCFWB State Executive Secretary will recommend at the February State Associational meeting that the State Association consider selling the present State Office building and property at 1705 S. Irby Street in Florence and use that money to build a new State Office/Book Store building on the property of the State Association where the SCFWB Children's Home is presently located (Turbeville). Several factors have led to this recommendation:



1) The present building is rapidly deteriorating and needs to be replaced. There is no money presently available (nor will it be available in the foreseeable future) to build a new building on our present location. Using the money from the sale of our present property to build on the Turbeville land would allow us to build a very nice building that would serve our State for many years to come.

2) Consolidating the SCFWB State Office, the SCFWB Christian Book Store, and the SCFWB Children's Home offices into a single building would cut costs by ending many office duplications such as computer networks, postage machines, utilities, etc. This would allow us to be better stewards of the resources entrusted to us by the Free Will Baptist of South Carolina.

Remember, this is a PROPOSAL. NOTHING can be done without the approval of the State Association. If the proposal is approved then a buyer must be found for the present property, plans must be drawn up for a new building, and the new State Office Building must be constructed. None of this can happen, however, unless the State Association agrees to this proposal. It is only being presented now in order to allow conference and church delegates the opportunity to pray and ponder before the State Meeting.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. (John 1:1,14) **MERRY CHRISTMAS**



Temple FWB Church of Darlington dedicated their new \$1.3 million dollar, 13,000 square foot facility on Sunday, November 20th. The cold rainy weather did not keep away a full house of members and visitors as this church celebrated the completion of their vision come true. Temple began their building program in June of 2004 on their recently purchased 30 acres of land just off a major highway on the outskirts of Darlington. They had been worshipping in their new facility

for 5 weeks before their dedication service but they wanted to make sure all the “kinks” were worked out before their big dedication day.

The new Sanctuary will seat around 350 and they have averaged 290 in attendance for the first 5 weeks-Glory! This attendance was especially pleasing to the members since a Pastor of a sister church had preached to them during a joint service in 2002 that if they did not increase their attendance then they would rattle around in their new building like marbles in a shoe box. During their dedication they presented this Pastor a shoebox filled with 290 marbles!!

Rev Todd Parrish is the Pastor of this growing congregation and he expressed praise to the members of the Church for their faithful hard work during this building time and joyfully looks forward to even greater blessings from the Lord in the days to come.



Pastor Todd Parrish presents the keys to the New Building to the Church Officers during the Dedication Service



Pastor Ron Ogle presents Mr. Jimmy Ard with his **perfect attendance pin for 41 years** of perfect attendance- Glory!. This wonderful event took place on Home Coming Sunday at Happy Home FWB Church of Andrews when the Church also broke their record attendance with 170 present in Sunday School.

Publication Deadlines. The “Informer” is published 7 times per year- January 15, March 15, April 15, June 15, August 15, October 15, and December 1st. Articles for publication need to be submitted 5 days prior to the publication date. Submit pictures as a separate file (in .jpeg or .tif format). **All articles are subject to editing and exclusion based on content and space availabilities.**

High Hill Church Celebrates Homecoming & Window Dedication If you were not among the approximately 200 attending the 2005 Homecoming & Stained Glass Window Dedication Service at High Hill Free Will Baptist Church on October 2, 2005, YOU MISSED A BLESSING!

When the folks at High Hill Church voted to step out in faith to fill their church windows with stained glass, they were not expecting the tremendous response. Twenty three windows were dedicated in memory, or in honor of a loved one during the service. Members of the congregation were invited to share memories or comments of those honored. The church was filled with an atmosphere of warmth and love as the new stained glass windows provided a spectrum of beautiful colors. The presence of the Holy Spirit was felt throughout the sanctuary.

Ms. Lib Wagner and Mr. Billy Godwin were recognized for their tireless efforts toward the completion of this project.

The service included special singing by Sarah Ward and Erik Knotts. Reverend Elro Driggers, a beloved former Pastor, presided over the special dedication service. Reverend Reedy Saverance, preached the Homecoming message, and everyone enjoyed dinner and fellowship in Holliday Hall.

Pastor Reedy Saverance and the members of High Hill Original Free Will Baptist Church, invite everyone to come and see what the Lord has done! To God be the glory!! (Submitted by Mr. Woody Feagin)





The Youth of **Salem FWB Church**, Scanton, SC recently sponsored a “Sweep-a-thon”. They worked five long, hard hours sweeping the parking lot of the Church but their efforts paid off as sponsors and individuals donated over \$800.00 to help furnish a youth activity center for the Church.



On June 19, 1974, Rev Paul Reid, wife Mary, and son, David arrived in Greenwood to begin work on a Home Mission project for the Greenwood area. The first service was held in a rented 2 story house on East Cambridge Avenue with 6 people attending. Services continued in this house until the Church purchased a little over 18 acres of land on Durst Avenue. The church then began meeting in a renovated house on this property until the Home Mission Board loaned them a mobile chapel.



David Reid watches former Pastor Paul Reid and new Pastor, Chris Todd, burn the mortgage and rejoice in being debt free.

On February 25, 1979 this mission church was organized into a self supporting Church with Rev. Paul Reid as pastor and 46 charter members. In February of 1983 construction was begun on a Church Building but the trusses fell, causing the walls to collapse, and it was September of 1983 before the construction could begin again. The Pew were delivered and installed just in time for the church to have its first service on Mother’s Day of 1984.

Rev. Paul Reid served as pastor of this church for 29 years but in 2003, at the age of 71, he felt led of the Lord to retire. It was a great honor for the state Executive Secretary to be with this Church on Sunday, December 4th when they burned their mortgage and became Debt Free- Glory! What a way for new pastor, Rev. Chris Todd, to begin his ministry.

Rev. Paul Reid served as pastor of this church for 29 years but in 2003, at the age of 71, he felt led of the Lord to retire. It was a great honor for the state



Pastor Darren Squires of Socastee FWB Church reports that at least one person has been saved each week for the past 8 months during their “Feed the Multitude” program of feeding the Homeless - Glory! Presently they feed, with help from a restaurant in Myrtle Beach, over 100 Homeless people each week.



Grace FWB Church of Lake City normally receives a special “Merry Christmas” offering each year as a special gift to the work of the Lord. Normally it will be around \$8, 000 - \$10,000. This year, Pastor Carroll Bazen had set a very high goal of \$25,000 in order to help with the new Family Life Center being built by the Church.

Brother Carroll could hardly contain his joy when the announcement was made at the end of the December 4th service that the “Merry Christmas” offering had exceeded **\$56,000**- Is there a “Glory” anywhere in the house!



IRS sets mileage rates for 2006- **The new mileage rate beginning January 1, 2006 will be 44.5 cent per mile.** The new rate for business miles compares to a rate of 40.5 cents per mile for the first eight months of 2005. In September, the IRS made a special one-time adjustment for the last four months of 2005, raising the rate for business miles to 48.5 cents per mile in response to a sharp increase in gas prices, which topped \$3 a gallon.

Church treasurers should adjust the mileage rates they pay the Pastor for Church related work according to this new rate. If the Church is not presently paying the Pastor something extra to help him with all of his travel to hospitals, Church related events, and Conference and State Meetings then they need to put mileage reimbursement into their budget as soon as possible.

Boards should also consider the benefit of having a conference call meeting from time to time instead of having to pay board member mileage. (I am chairman of the NAFWB Media Commission. Our finances are very limited. The five members of our commission live in 5 different states. We normally have a one hour meeting via phone conference for less than \$50.00. It would cost us several thousand dollars if we had to pay mileage).

Not only do increased gas prices hurt us as individuals but it also impacts our ministry for the Lord.

- Shipping rates to get Sunday School literature and other Christian materials to the SCFWB Christian Book Store have drastically increased. UPS rates to get these materials from the Book Store to you or your Church have also greatly increased. The Book Store is “absorbing” some of this increase but some of it must be passed on in higher shipping costs.

- Postage rates are also increasing- A 37 cent stamp will become a 39 cent stamp on January 8, 2006. Almost all other postage rates will increase at the same time. This will impact those items we have been shipping via US Mail.



CHURCH TREASURERS: The SCFWB State Office will end its year at 10am on Friday, December 30, 2005. Anything received after that date will be applied to your 2006 contributions. Thank you for all you do for your church and for the work of God.



The REJOICE Free Will Baptist Hymn Book is once again available. It has been redesigned so that it is very easy to read, yet, it is smaller and has less bulk than the previous edition. The Cost is \$13.99 each and it comes in Sky Blue, Royal Blue, Cardinal Red, and Spring Green. Order your copies today from your SCFWB Christian Book and Supply Store- (843) 662-8682.

Pooles seek to build another Church- Missionaries to Brazil, Bobby and Geneva Poole are attempting to build a church building at the Marincek property. Since the Church began in this vital area of need it has met in renovated homes. Now the Pooles want to tear down one of the homes and build a church sanctuary in its place. The Pooles have \$25,000 available in a Vision Project to help with the building and the church has raised \$14,500 to help. According to the Pooles, they don't know how many years they have left and they would like to leave the Marincek church with its auditorium built.

Presently there are three houses, very small, but all paid for on the land. The total of all the land covered by the houses and yards would be 7,100 sq. feet. They hope to take down one house (It is on an area of 2,366 sq. feet) and build the auditorium in it's place. Contributions can be sent to the Poole's account designated for the Marincek project.





Rev. Ernest Everett Lawson, Sr., 83, of Eden Terrace and formerly of Old Furnace Road, Boiling Springs, SC, died Sunday, November 20, 2005, at Spartanburg Regional Medical Center.

Born February 1, 1922, in Treadway, TN, he was the son of the late Henley and Cordie Johnson Lawson. Mr. Lawson was an educator and taught textiles at Swofford Vocational School, and was a U. S. Navy Veteran of World War II. He was a member of Southside Free Will Baptist Church of Valley Falls. He was a member of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

He is survived by his wife, Frances Johnson Lawson of the home; two daughters and sons-in-law, Rona and Wayne Burnett of Wellford, SC and Wanda and Ernie Fowler of Duncan, SC; a son and daughter-in-law, Ernie Lawson, Jr. and Judy Miller Lawson of Boiling Springs, SC; four grandchildren, Perry Burnett, Ernie Lawson, III, Shawn Lawson and Layne Fowler; and two great-grandchildren, Trey Burnett and Will Fowler. He was predeceased by a grandson, Forrest Fowler. (Obtained from the Spartanburg Herald-Journal)

The **Rev. Haywood Drew**, age 69, finished his course and won his earthly race, Wednesday morning, Nov. 16, 2005, with his niece, Elizabeth Moore, by his bedside.

The Rev. Drew was born in Conway on Sept. 30, 1936, son of Cordie Drew and Crissie Bellamy Drew. As an ordained minister, his life was devoted and sacrificially served to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He was a member of the South Carolina Central Association of the Freewill Baptist Association and the Free Worship Freewill Baptist Church. The Rev. Drew was also employed in the golf course maintenance industry with his last employment being with Quail Creek Golf Course.

He leaves behind one sister, Essie Brown of Conway; and several nieces and nephews with special mention to his niece, Elizabeth Moore of Conway. Funeral services were Friday, Nov. 18, 2005, at Free Welcome Original Freewill Baptist Church with the Rev. Billy Baker and the Rev. Brook Sykes officiating. (Obtained from the Myrtle Beach Sun News)



Hispanic grads l-r Rogelia Jimenez, Nelly Baez, Eva Luz Morales, Jose Luis Rodriguez, Antonio Jimenez, Ruben Pulido, Aaron Santos, Aurelio Villa

The 4th graduation at the Gwen Hendrix Hispanic Institute was held on Saturday, November 26, 2005 in the sanctuary of First FWB Church of Inman, SC. Eight students received their diplomas after having received 5 months of intense training and will now go on to work for the Lord in various ministries.

The service began with the graduates marching into a full Church sanctuary in their cap and gowns. The Graduation message was delivered by Rev Rick Bowling, Director of FWB Hispanic Ministries in the United States. Each of the Graduates was then given 2 beautiful diplomas- one in English and one in Spanish; and each graduate was given the opportunity to share about their faith in Christ. A fellowship meal (Hosted by the First FWB Church of Inman) for the graduates and their family and friends followed the graduation.

The next class session will begin Monday, January 9, 2006 with graduation on Saturday, June 3. Beginning with this session, classes will be recorded on DVD to assist students who miss a class and for use in an Hispanic outreach school in California.



Professors Rev Fernando Bustamante, Rev. Shane Wilson, and Rev Gerardo Rodriguez, President of the Gwen Hendrix Hispanic Institute, Rev. Earl Hendrix, and Director of FWB Hispanic Ministries, Rev. Rick Bowling watch as a Graduate gives her testimony after receiving her diploma.

2005 SCWAC Fall Prayer Retreat. The 2005 South Carolina Free Will Baptist Women Active for Christ Fall Prayer Retreat was held at White Oak Conference Center in Winnsboro, SC. Our theme this year was "Palm Trees" and our Bible verse was Psalm 92:12- "The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon." This was especially touching as we all learned that everything on the palm tree is used with nothing being wasted. We, as Christians, need to live our lives for Christ with nothing wasted. The palm tree's roots run deep to withstand any storm. We, too, should strive to be like the palm tree with our roots deep in Christ's Word so we can withstand the storms in our lives.



The Friday Night Palmetto Fashion show was enjoyed by all.

Friday night was a special time of fellowship among the various churches represented. The fashion show was wonderful. To each lady who participated, Thank you for your originality. The game of human palm trees relay was fun to all who participated and watched. The final game was "South Carolina girls are the best in the world" sentence formation. As usual, Mona and Carolyn were wonderful with the music.

Saturday morning, Faye Hannah spoke of the state project- building a Church in India. Our state goal was \$20,000. Once again SCWAC answered the call by raising a total of \$32,160.75. We serve an awesome God and when the WAC comes together, there is nothing that we cannot accomplish for His glory. We were honored to have Mrs. Brenda Kaye Roach (Missionary Carlisle Hanna's daughter) with us. She spoke and shared with us the needs of India and requested prayer for Bolen's wife and daughters as they recover from the tragedy of his death. We were blessed by the music of "One Focus". Especially touching was their song, "Under His Wings". Our guest speaker was Tracie Moore. Tracie is a teacher at the Inman Christian Academy. She did a devotion from II Kings 4:8-37. She shared her personal experiences with us and was a blessing to everyone there. Rev. Mike Jones spoke about the mission work and our missionaries. He also reported that the SCFWB Children's Home was doing well and shared about the relief efforts provided by our state for the Hurricane Katrina victims. Lynne Morris sang "He grew the Tree" in closing.



Patty Newton led in Organizing the event.

One again Patti Newton and company went above and beyond the call of duty in praying and planning. All FWB WAC women should be proud and thankful we have such dedicated women working with us.

I would like to close by saying that if you do not have an active WAC in your church then please start one today! God can use each woman's group to continue helping missionaries- both home and foreign. The size of your group does not matter, just the size of our heart and the depth of your roots in Christ's love. (Submitted by Mrs. Carolyn Snipes SCWAC Secretary.)

On November 3-5, 2005, Southeastern Free Will Baptist College hosted its annual "Get Acquainted Days". It was a record breaking year for Southeastern as over 200 high school students from 13 different states attended the weekend event. The interest in attending Southeastern was highly elevated as close to 20 applications were turned in already for the fall 2006 semester during Get Acquainted Days. Alumnus Scott Coghill delivered two powerful messages as young people responded to the altar pouring their hearts and lives out to God to be used for His service. We are so thankful that God is using Southeastern FWB College to train His servants for the ministry.

On November 17-19, 2005, Southeastern also held its annual High School Basketball tournament. It was an exciting weekend as over 300 high school students visiting the campus. Many showed great interest in attend Southeastern FWB College. The winners of the ladies bracket was Wilson Christian School, Wilson, NC and the winners from the men's bracket was Faith Christian Academy, Goldsboro, NC. (Submitted by Jonathan Blankenship)

*Upcoming dates:

- Spring Semester Begins.....Jan. 11
- "Grad Days".....Feb. 9-11
- "Grad Days".....Feb. 23-25
- Camp Meeting.....April 10-12



[This article was submitted by Rev. Joe Cagle, Pastor of Little Bethel FWB Church, Johnsonville, SC]

SATAN COMES IN GREAT WRATH BECAUSE HE KNOWS HIS TIME IS SHORT Revelation 12:12

Can our hearts become hard even though we are saved? It appears their hearts did in Mark 16: 14. Jesus appears to the eleven and upbraided (scolded) them with their unbelief and hardness of heart.

Can we, even though we are saved, vex (disturb, annoy, shake) our soul, It sure appears that Lot did in II Peter 2:7 & 8. It seems that he got used to the wicked sin in Sodom and lost his rebuke for sin. HAVE WE??? Notice how slowly sin crept in. In the last 40 plus years the Supreme Court has ruled prayer and the Bible out of America's public schools (1962), they ruled in favor of the personal privacy right to abortion (1973), they struck down a Kentucky statute to display the 10 commandments in public schools (1980), they restricted the right of free speech around or near abortion clinics (1994), they overruled a Texas law allowing students to pray at athletic events (2000), and they struck down a Texas law prohibiting sodomy (2003). Also, in 2003 New York federal judges blocked enforcement of a ban on partial-birth abortion and in 2003 the Massachusetts Supreme Court ruled that same-sex couples can marry under the law of that state.

Have we like Lot in Sodom vexed our righteous soul until we really do not care? Have our hearts become so hard that our pulpits have become silent as sin has crept into our school classrooms where our children spend more time than in any other one place? Can sin vex our soul? It did Lot.

In 2004, our South Carolina State Association of Free Will Baptists voted unanimously to financially support our South Carolina FWB Christian Schools, which may be the greatest ministry of our day in Free Will Baptists.

Please brethren, for Jesus' sake do not allow sin to vex our soul. Please do not allow our hearts to become hard so that we lose our children and grandchildren to sin and Satan who has come in great wrath because he knoweth that he has but a short time. Rev. 12:12. Let us pray and give in support of Christian education; let us rise up and go to war against sin. We also only have a short time.

FWBBC Dedicates Teaching Lab. The new teaching lab at Free Will Baptist Bible College was dedicated Monday, November 14, as a standing-room-only crowd of students, Teacher Education faculty and guests gathered in Room 201 of the Johnson Classroom Building. Dr. Suzann Harris, T.E. faculty member at FWBBC since 1994, said, "This is such a wonderful occasion. We now have a room where teaching materials can be placed and made available to students. Apart from the curriculum lab in Welch Library, this is the first time we have a teacher-work area and a teaching lab where students can refine their teaching skills, as well as create their numerous learning centers, bulletin boards, unit plans and more."



In a carefully orchestrated surprise to the honorees, the teaching lab was dedicated to Dr. Milton Fields and Mrs. Helen Fields, and to Dr. Thurman Pate and Mrs. Ann Pate. Plaques designating the resource lab as the "Fields of Learning" and the teaching lab as the "Pate Teaching Lab" were placed on doors leading into the respective areas.

Mrs. Helen Fields donated most of the teaching aids in the resource lab from her years as a teacher in the Metropolitan Nashville public school system. Along with teaching materials, state-of-the-arts technological equipment was also donated.

"I never wanted to throw anything away," Mrs. Fields said. "I'm so glad the T.E. students will continue to use the materials."

Dr. Thurman Pate, chair of the T.E. Department, said, "I've had several jobs in my life. But my job here with these students is more than a job. It's a ministry."

The teacher education officers, led by T.E. president Jill McAllister (California), planned the event, secured the plaques and the funds to purchase them, and contacted former students and colleagues to compile books of letters to honor the Fields and the Pates. They presented flowers to Mrs. Fields and Mrs. Pate.

Dr. Fields, academic dean at FWBBC, told T.E. students, "I'm a pastor at heart, and I have seen the great influence that teachers can have for the Lord. I encourage you to join the ranks of teachers in public and private schools, and teach students how to live, not just how to read and write." (Submitted by Jack Williams, FWBBC).



(L-r) Dr. Thurman Pate, Mrs. Helen Fields, Dr. Milton Fields.



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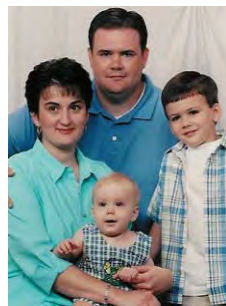
*Keep
Christ
in Christmas*



NEW PASTORS



Rev. Chris Todd is the New Pastor of First FWB Church of Greenwood. Brother Chris was Pastor of Calvary FWB Church of Georgetown before He moved to Greenwood.



Rev John Johnson (Wife- Kim, Boys- Jacob and Quinn) is the New Pastor of Hillside FWB Church of Florence, SC. Brother John comes to us from Springfield FWB Church of Vernon, Al.

Rev Brian Bird is the New Pastor of First FWB Church of Greenville. Brother Brian comes to Greenville from Canton FWB Church, Canton, NC.

Rev. Alan Sailors is the New Pastor of New Prospect FWB Church of Pamplico. Brother Alan was Pastor of Way of the Cross FWB Church of Shelby, NC before he assumed this present position.

Rev Pete Minor is the New Pastor of Immanuel FWB Church of Santee, SC. Brother Pete most recently was Pastor of Liberty FWB Church of Manning.

Rev J. T. Adams is the New Pastor of Wildwood FWB Church of Nichols. Brother J.T. has been doing evangelistic work and Radio Ministry for the past several years.

Our Favorite Christmas Color is YELLOW?- By Tim and Kristi Johnson, Missionaries to Spain.

Along with the traditional red and green colors of Christmas, we like seeing YELLOW! In Spain, the post office is called "correos" and the mail is delivered in two different ways. One is by people who walk from apartment building to apartment building pulling a little yellow cart behind them with the mail. The other way is on yellow motorcycles. We love seeing the yellow motorcycle driving up to our house because it means that we've got mail! Recently, we were surprised to get a care package from the States complete with marshmallows, tea bags, orange slices, "Dora the Explorer" toys, coloring books, etc. It was packed in Kohl's and Target weekly sales ads, which we loved seeing as well. Our mailman probably has no idea what's in the packages he brings us, but he sees the joy on our faces when he hands us the package.

More than anything, we want to share with him a special package. We want him (and many others in Alpedrete) to know the joy and peace that come from knowing Jesus as a true person, not just a small part of the nativity scene each Christmas. No package could be worth more to the people of Alpedrete than the one that came wrapped in swaddling clothes over two thousand years ago. Help us pray that this Christmas season will give us many opportunities to share this precious gift with them. (Their Mailing address is- C/Alpes, 26 28430 Alpedrete (Madrid) SPAIN)



The Spain Missionaries share Thanksgiving Dinner together.