



The Informer is the official publication of the South Carolina State Association of Original Free Will Baptists, Inc. Address all correspondence to Todd Smith, P.O. Box 9, Turbeville, SC 29162 (843) 657-2091 Email: ToddSmith@scfwb.com

TWO GREAT SERVANTS
GONE ON TO BE WITH THE LORD



Reverend R. Eugene (Gene) Waddell went home to be with the Lord on Sunday, October 21, 2007, following an extended battle with cancer. Waddell served as general director of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions for 12 years (April 1986-December 1998). During his tenure Foreign Missions began ministering in Russia, Mongolia, China, and Central Asia. Under his leadership contact with Cuba was reinstated, 64

missionaries were appointed, overseas church attendance almost doubled, and the TEAM summer missions program for high school students was initiated. In addition to his time as general director, Waddell served as associate director for five years (1981-1986) and completed over 20 years (1959-1981) as an active member on the Board of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions. Following his December 31, 1998, retirement, he served as Minister of Care and pastor emeritus at Cofer's Chapel FWB Church in Nashville, Tennessee. Waddell leaves behind an impressive legacy of faith, love, resilience, passion for reaching unreached peoples, integrity, compassion, mediation, vision, and servanthood.



Carolyn Adams, much loved wife, mother, grandmother, and friend to everyone with whom she came in contact, went to be with the Lord on November 10, 2007, after a long battle with cancer. Married to Dr. Richard Adams in January 1959, she spent the next 48 years being a model helper to her husband, mother to her family, and serving the Lord in ministry from the parsonage to the past 17 years as a vital part of the Home

Missions family in Nashville, Tennessee. Mrs. Adams was a talented singer and continually served the Lord through her music across the denomination. Many lives have been touched through her ministry in music, in comfort, and in planting the seed of salvation. Carolyn loved the Lord, her family, and Free Will Baptists. She spent her life encouraging and ministering to many through her sweet attitude, humble heart, and love for the Lord. Her presence will be greatly missed.

FWB INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS TO
HOST LUNCHEONS

The FWBIM Board is scheduled to adopt a structure for the new funding system in April 2008. In preparation for that meeting, the staff is arranging meetings in several states to communicate with pastors and leaders.

General Director James Forlines and other directors will present the current direction of the Mission concerning the structure of the new plan. They will listen to concerns, answer questions, and receive input from those who attend the meetings. This is your opportunity to be involved. Two meetings will be held in South Carolina:

- 1) East side of the state - Peace FWB Church, Florence, on January 11, 2008, at 12 noon
 - 2) West side of the state - Parkway FWB Church, Boiling Springs, on January 12, 2008, at 12 noon.
- Lunch will be provided, so reservations are requested. Please RSVP to April Bybee in the Mission office (april@fwbgo.com or toll-free 1-877-767-7736).



On November 13, 2007, FWB International Missions reached a historic milestone. Contributions to the World Missions Offering (WMO) topped \$500,000 which was the 2007 offering goal. This year, 492 churches and women's groups participated in the World Missions Offering (WMO), including the Change the World coin bank project (a component of the WMO). These donations, along with the gifts of many individuals, pushed the WMO over the \$500,000 goal!

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GILEAD CELEBRATES 150 YEARS



Gilead FWB Church celebrated their 150th year at their recent Homecoming-Old Fashioned Day. The Rev. Harry Cooper, a former pastor who has been faithful to the call for over 30 years, brought a dynamic message from Ruth 1:20-22 entitled "The Four Looks" applying the scripture to looking back, looking inward, looking outward, and looking upward. Rev. Cooper concluded his message with a celebration of looking in all these directions, as well as present and future directions. The worship service was followed by a wonderful homecoming meal in the beautifully decorated family life center. There were several items of Gilead's church history on display, including the old clerk's desk, old record book, listings of past and present preachers, deacons, and a brief history of land acquisitions and buildings. While the attendees enjoyed a great meal and fellowship, they were treated to music by The Singing Gospel Carriers from Mullins-Marion. Rev. Larry McAlister has been faithfully serving for many years at Gilead, and the church has seen great growth in his years of pastorate.

WESTSIDE HONORS PASTOR WITH \$1,000.00 SHIRT



Pastor Theron and Camille Scott with \$1,000 shirt given by church

On Sunday, November 4, 2007, Westside Free Will Baptist Church in Johnsonville celebrated their annual Homecoming. The morning started out with Rev. Van Powell teaching a wonderful Sunday school lesson in the senior adult class. Sunday school was followed by the morning worship service, in which Executive Secretary Todd Smith shared the morning message. After the morning worship service, a delicious meal was enjoyed by everyone in the family life center. Also, on the previous Sunday, Westside Church surprised their pastor with a pastor appreciation gift. The gift was a shirt worth \$1,000.00. The shirt was made of money and was made by an individual in the church. It was a pleasant surprise for Pastor Theron Scott and Camille, who have been serving at Westside Church for 20 years.

MT. ELON CHURCH CELEBRATES 140 YEARS AND HONORS DR. AND MRS. ROBERT PICIRILLI



Pictured Above (Dr. Robert Picirilli's Ordination Service) - Left to Right: Robert Picirilli, Charles Thigpen, Paul Kettelman, and Luther Sanders



On Saturday and Sunday, October 21-22, 2007, Mt. Elon Free Will Baptist Church in Pamplico, SC, celebrated its 140th anniversary. The weekend started out on Saturday with a "Pic Fest," in which the church had a pig-picking, had picture time, heard some picking and grinning music, and honored Dr. Robert Picirilli. Pastor Mark Leonard put together a history of the church that reflected over the past 140 years. The Sunday service included a message by Dr. Picirilli and was followed by a delicious meal. Pastor Mark was able to present Dr. Picirilli with letters of commendation from President George W. Bush and also current South Carolina Governor Mark Sanford. On December 31, 1867, Joseph S. Gibbs gave an acre of land so that Mt. Elon Free Will Baptist Church could be built. Over the past 140 years, God has provided a rich history for Mt. Elon Church as they continue serving the Lord. Pastor Mark said the "Pic-fest" was "Picture Perfect."

ENOREE OLD CHURCH BUILDING AND PROPERTY FOR SALE

Approximately five years ago, Enoree First Free Will Baptist Church, a member of the Beaver Creek Association, built a new church building in a different location from its original location. For the past five years, the previous church has been under a lease purchase; however, the church is no longer being used and is back on the market for sale. Enoree Church has requested for information to be placed in the Informer, in case someone might know of a potential buyer. The church sits on approximately 5 acres and is located on Hwy 92 in Enoree, SC. For information, please contact Mr. Mike Casey at the following numbers: 864-969-3700 (church) or 864-969-6219 (home).

Correction from the last Informer: First FWB Church, Kingstree, SC, gave a combined offering between the ladies and men in the amount of \$1,616.00 for missions. The individual figures were correct, but the total was a typographical error.



Lighthouse, Florence Has Bluegrass Benefit for FWBBC

Lighthouse Free Will Baptist Church in Florence, SC, had its second annual "Bluegrass Singing Benefit" with \$153.00 being raised for the Free Will Baptist Bible College. There were many groups that came and provided bluegrass music. Crystal River from Conway sang, and they were a great blessing. Lighthouse Church is looking forward to their third annual Bluegrass Benefit that will take place on Saturday, October 11, 2008.

CHILDREN'S HOME BENEFITS FROM BAY BRANCH AND BETHANY'S OUTREACH

Two Timmonsville churches take on a friendly challenge to increase their church attendance. Bay Branch Free Will Baptist Church with Pastor John Driggers challenged Beulah Free Will Baptist Church with Pastor Earl Hanna to see who could increase their average attendance over the course of several weeks. Both churches worked hard during the month of September. Both churches had over 100 visitors during the course of the challenge. Bethany church had over 60 visitors on one particular Sunday. However, though both worked very hard, only one could be the winner, and Bay Branch Church won the friendly challenge by a small margin. Both churches enjoyed having a good number of visitors. The churches agreed that the winner would do something for someone else on behalf of the other if their church won. Bethany Free Will Baptist Church presented \$1,000.00 to the Children's Home to go toward the debt retirement!



Pictured Left: Gerald Kirby, Sunday School Superintendent at Bay Branch with Pastor Earl Hanna present Rev. Roy Roach with a check for \$1,000.00 for the Children's Home

TABERNACLE, COWARD ENJOYS NEW FAMILY LIFE CENTER ON FRIENDS AND FAMILY DAY

On Sunday, October 28, 2007, Tabernacle FWB Church in Coward, SC, invited many people for "Friends and Family Day." Pastor Danny Stone indicated that the church has been sacrificially giving over the past several months in order to see the completion of their new family life center. Although the family life center was not quite completed, the church was able to enjoy the use of the building for the noon meal on that Sunday. During the worship service on Friends and Family Day, Calvin and Mary Groom and Pastor Danny Stone sang a special, and Page Groom provided special music as well. Executive Secretary Todd Smith brought the morning message. Rev. Danny Stone and wife Angie have been serving at Tabernacle for almost 5 years and are doing a tremendous job. Below is pictured the new 14,000 square foot family life center and pictures from Friends and Family Day.

Pictured Left: Family Life Center.
Pictured Below: Noon Meal



EVERGREEN, CONWAY ORDAINS TWO DEACONS

Deacon Ordination service was held at Evergreen Free Will Baptist Church in Conway on Sunday, October 28, 2007. Steven Martin and Tony Jordan were ordained as deacons on this special day. Pastor Rickey Evans preached the morning message, and retired minister L.G. Haselden prayed the prayer of dedication as the deacons and their wives knelt at the altar. Pastor Evans presented Steven and Tony with a new Bible from the church. Rev. Haselden is the grandfather of Steven Martin and a dear friend of Tony Jordan. He performed marriage ceremonies for Steven and his wife Michelle as well as for Tony and his wife Wendy several years ago. Both couples are natives of Conway and are active members at Evergreen Church. Steven and Michelle have two children, Stevie and Jacob, and this couple also works with the youth program in the church. Tony and Wendy have two children, Justin and Brooke. Tony's deceased grandfather Norton Brown and Wendy's deceased grandfather J.L. Holt were both former deacons at Evergreen FWB Church. Tony feels that it is an honor to follow in his grandfather's footsteps. Please pray for Steven and Tony as they serve the Lord and their church as deacons.



Pictured Above Left to Right: Pastor Rickey Evans, Tony and Wendy Jordan, and Michelle and Steven Martin

Would you like to keep up with SC Free Will Baptist news through a weekly email update? Feel free to send an email to ToddSmith@scfwb.com with your first and last name and email address, and we'll be sure to add you to our weekly email list. Please place "Weekly Email Update" in the subject line.

LEBANON HOST FWBBC DINNER



Lebanon Free Will Baptist Church in Effingham, SC, hosted a "Friendship Dinner" for the friends, family, and alumni of the Free Will Baptist Bible College (FWBBC). The dinner took place on Saturday evening, November 3, 2007. Mr. A.C. Allen, FWBBC Board member, barbequed the hog

for the meal, and the ladies of Lebanon Church provided all the side dishes and desserts. Todd and Miranda Parrish and Bruce Kimbrel provided special music after the meal. President Dr. Matt Pinson brought greetings from the FWB Bible College and shared the progress and future plans of the college. There were more than 10 FWB churches represented at the dinner. Special recognition was given to FWB College alumni that were present. There were four SC FWB retired ministers present that were from the classes of the 1950's, which included Rev. Galen Dunbar, Rev. Elro Driggers, Rev. Reedy Saverance, and Rev. David Hutchinson. The "Friendship Dinner" proved to be a wonderful time of fellowship.

GREETINGS FROM THE JOHNSON FAMILY



We are at the end of our third term here in Spain. Each term has gotten more exciting! Since we were last in the states, we have been working in Alpedrete to plant a church and ministering through the Outreach Center. This endeavor has definitely had its ups and downs, but we are happy to

say that over 3,500 visits have been made to our Outreach Center and church. Of these, over 1000 have been unbelievers. This means that we've had over 1000 chances to show the love of Christ through story hours, crafts, conversation times in English, etc. We're celebrating our two-year anniversary of the Outreach Center in December. We were thrilled to be interviewed recently by a local magazine. Over 5000 copies of the magazine will soon be distributed throughout our pueblo, and everyone will have a chance to hear more about the very first evangelical church ever in Alpedrete. On December 22, we will board a plane headed to the states. Our kids will experience a Christmas in America, complete with candy canes, playing with cousins, and special Christmas programs at church. Kristi will be doing some after-Christmas shopping, and Tim will be watching the New Year's Day Bowl games and hoping for snow while we are in Michigan. We will then get to see many of you as we travel to your churches and speak in various meetings. Merry Christmas! ¡Feliz Navidad!

Tim, Kristi, Alejandro, and Ana Johnson

MILL BRANCH WELCOMES NEW PASTOR



Mill Branch Free Will Baptist Church in Johnsonville, SC, recently welcomed Rev. Jeff Rhea as their new pastor. Jeff and his wife Hope come from Pennington Gap, VA. They recently served at the

Harvest Free Will Baptist Child Care Ministries located in Duffield, VA. Jeff and Hope have two children, Emily (10) and Hanna (2). Jeff has an Associates Degree in Biblical Studies from Andersonville Theological Seminary and a B.A. in Theology from Slidell Baptist Seminary in Slidell, Louisiana. We welcome this family to South Carolina and to Mill Branch FWB Church.

TEDDY RABON ACCEPTS PASTORATE AT CALVARY, GEORGETOWN



Rev. Teddy Rabon, member of the Eastern Conference, recently accepted the pastorate at Calvary Free Will Baptist Church in Georgetown, SC. Teddy and his wife Karen are from the Mullins-Marion Free Will Baptist Church in Mullins, SC. Teddy grew up under the ministry of Rev. Bill Jacobs and was ordained into the Central Association under the ministry

of Rev. Neil Hinson. For the past two and a half years, Teddy has served as the Youth Pastor at Gilead Free Will Baptist Church under the ministry of Rev. Larry McAlister. Saved at the age of 12 in a children's church class, Teddy later dedicated his life to the service of the Lord in March of 1989. Teddy and his wife Karen have one child, Savannah, who is 8 years old. Pray for Teddy and his family as they transition to Georgetown and begin this new ministry.

REV. CARL BARKER HOME WITH THE LORD



Rev. Carl Barker, a member of the Central Association, went home to be with the Lord on Thursday evening, November 8, 2007. He passed away at the Waccamaw Community Hospital in Murrells Inlet, SC, after a long term of illness.

Having been a faithful member of the Central Association, he will be greatly missed. Please pray for his family as they will be transitioning back to West Virginia where other family members live.

“FWBBC On the Move” By Jack Williams



Free Will Baptist Bible College began its 65th year of operation this fall by enrolling 324 students from 25 states and two foreign countries. Thirteen of those students are from South Carolina, including Student Body vice president Hannah Postlewaite, a junior English major from Florence. Since opening in 1942, more than 6,000 FWBBC alumni have entered the denominational workforce as pastors, missionaries, local church leaders, teachers, military chaplains, and more. The regionally accredited four-year college offers more than 40 majors ranging from traditional pastoral ministry, missions, Christian

education and music to business, exercise science, teacher education, psychology, history, and others. FWBBC offers seven degrees: Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Music Education, Associate of Arts, Associate of Christian Ministries, Associate of Science in Business, and Associate of Science in Early Childhood, as well as online learning, international studies, and adult education. Because of the growing need in the health sciences field, FWBBC is launching pre-nursing, biology education, and biology degrees. A nursing program with a local university began this fall, and FWBBC plans to begin granting the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree in 2009. The Bachelor of Science in General Science degree is also underway this fall. Beginning in the fall of 2009, students will be accepted into the Bachelor of Science in Biology degree program. Plans to sell the Nashville campus, purchase a larger campus site, and build a new campus continue to move forward. President Matt Pinson said, “We are serious about growth. We are serious about expanding our programs of study. We are serious about long-term solutions. We are serious about relocation. But we’re also serious about being patient and waiting on God.” Be sure to mark March 27-29, 2008, on your calendar for “Welcome Days.”

“139 ENROLLED AT SOUTHEASTERN FWB BIBLE COLLEGE” BY JONATHAN BLAKENSHIP



Southeastern Free Will Baptist College, located in Wendell, North Carolina, is celebrating 25 years of training young men and women for full time church-related ministries. Today there are nearly 600 Southeastern alumni around the world. As we enter the year of 2008, historical events continue to happen as Dr. Lorenza Stox (the first employee of the college) assumes the full-time presidency after having pastored for 24 years. Please continue to pray for Southeastern FWB College as we seek God’s leadership with the training of this generation. President Stox is also excited to announce that Bobby Aycock, former foreign missionary to Brazil, will be teaching in our Missions Department beginning in January 2008. The current enrollment for the fall of 2007

is 139 students. Students are represented from 15 states and 2 countries. The top five SC giving churches are as follows: 1) Gilead FWB Church, Lake City, 2) First FWB Church, Florence, 3) Lockhart FWB Church, Union, 4) FWB Bible Church, Darlington, and 5) Southside FWB Church, Darlington. “Get Acquainted Days” is scheduled for March 25-29, 2008, and the annual “Camp Meeting” is scheduled for April 7-9, 2008.

“THE HEART OF GATEWAY CHRISTIAN COLLEGE” BY DR. BRUCE BARNES



Every institution has an atmosphere that characterizes it, and it is no different at Gateway Christian College. Because of its tie to the local church and Pastor Karl Sexton’s desire for world evangelization, the students at GCC reflect that same unique passion and “heart” for the world. It is not a desire to be like the world but it is that of going into the world to make a difference for Christ. The hearts of the students beat for world outreach. A recent illustration of this heart was the Fall Missions Retreat. Held at The Anchorage at Lake Waccamaw in North Carolina, the

Lord moved hearts as students and staff considered what it would be like to share the gospel under times of persecution. Missionary David Sexton brought messages that followed the theme of being persistent in sharing the gospel regardless of the consequences. During a time of reflection and testimony Friday evening, the hearts of the students were revealed as they shared their burden for the lost people of the world. Student after student wept for the lost and the places around the world where no gospel message was present. They spoke of how they wanted to be the ones to help carry that message, even to the hard places. The “heart” of Gateway Christian College is important just as is the studies provided in the classroom because true success in this endeavor will be not merely the educational facts that GCC helps students learn. It will also be the building of a practical philosophy in which to carry that information. A passion for world evangelization and faithfulness in ministry is the philosophy that uniquely harmonizes with the instruction provided for Christian service. This is the “heart” of Gateway Christian College. Pastors are encouraged to attend our Bible Conference scheduled for March 2-5, 2008, and high school students are encouraged to attend “Open House” March 1-3, 2008.

TRUE LIFE MEETS AT CALVARY, GASTONIA



The True Life Association met on Saturday, October 20, 2007, at Calvary Free Will Baptist Church in Gastonia, NC.

The meeting started at 9:45 AM with registration, and continued with congregational singing, business, and preaching. Moderator Rev. Eddie Hinson welcomed everyone to the meeting. Rev. Mike Wilson, pastor at Calvary FWB Church, shared the morning devotion from Judges 6. Executive Secretary Todd Smith brought the morning message. Rev. John Cody emphasized the need to pray for our troops overseas and encouraged churches to send care packages to our troops. Pictured above, there were several Free Will Baptist and also visiting ministers that were in attendance. The people of Calvary Church served a gracious meal after the meeting. The True Life Association turned out to be a wonderful day of fellowship in the Lord.

BEAVER CREEK ASSOCIATION MEETS AT SOUTHSIDE, SPARTANBURG

The Beaver Creek Association met on Saturday, October 27, 2007, at Southside Free Will Baptist Church in Spartanburg, SC. The meeting was opened with prayer followed by the congregational song, "Love Lifted Me." Scripture reading was given by Rev. John Boykin. The host pastor, Rev. Henry Guyton, welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were 18 churches represented with 26 ministers present. Two messages were brought during the meeting. Rev. Terry Miller, pastor at North Spartanburg Free Will Baptist Church, brought a message from Daniel 3, and Rev. Mitch Edge, pastor at Parkway FWB Church, brought a message from John 8. The next Beaver Creek meeting is scheduled for Saturday, January 26, 2008.



Pictured: Rev. Terry Miller (left) and Rev. Mitch Edge (right) share messages during the Beaver Creek meeting.

CENTRAL ASSOCIATION CONVENES AT RAINS FWB CHURCH

The Central Association met on Saturday, October 13, 2007, at Rains Free Will Baptist Church in Conway, SC. The meeting was opened in prayer, followed by congregational singing. Rev. Paul Lambert (pictured below left), pastor at South Conway Free Will Baptist Church, brought the morning devotion from Jude 1. The ordaining council report reflected the licensing of Daniel Bennett for the preaching of the gospel. Missionary Carlisle Hanna (pictured below right) shared the morning message from Acts 4 regarding the fact that there is salvation in no other name than the name of Jesus Christ. The members of Rains Church served a wonderful meal at the close of the meeting. The next Central Association meeting is scheduled to take place at Socastee Free Will Baptist Church on January 12, 2008, in Surfside Beach, SC.



GREETINGS FROM GERARDO RODRIGUEZ



Hispanic missionary Gerardo Rodriguez has been faithfully ministering with his family at the First FWB Church in Una, SC. During the two most recent holidays, Gerardo took the opportunity to share with the Hispanic community about the gospel

and the love of the Lord Jesus Christ. When many in America were celebrating Halloween, the Hispanic Church in Una decided to celebrate with a festivities of lights by providing an opportunity for families to bring their children to the church and share the love of Christ with them. On Thanksgiving Day, the Hispanic Church, celebrated thanksgivings to the Lord with many Hispanics in the community. Testimonies, preaching, and singing were just a few things that were a part of this special day. The people enjoyed tacos, enchiladas, and tamales as a part of their Thanksgiving meal. On behalf of the Hispanic missionaries, thank you for your support and prayers.

ATTENTION CHURCH TREASURERS

The books at the SC FWB State Office will be closed out on Thursday, January 3, 2008, in order to give treasurers time to get the December giving checks in for the end of the year giving. Giving checks for 2007 will need to be at the State Office by 12 noon on Thursday, January 3, 2008, in order to be applied to the 2007 calendar year. In advance, thank you for your help. You are greatly appreciated!

SOUTHSIDE, DARLINGTON KINDERGARTEN BY REV. LEROY LOWERY



Motivated by a burden to provide a Christ-centered, safe, and quality environment for pre-school children, Southside Free Will Baptist Church in Darlington, SC, established its Kindergarten School ten years ago this coming January. The school program combines quality child care along with an excellent academic program utilizing the Abeka curriculum. This program is based upon the phonics approach of learning language skills. The day begins with pledges to the American flag, the Christian flag, and the Bible followed by prayer and Bible stories. Also, there is a great emphasis upon rote memorization.

Memorizing scriptures, the alphabet, vowels, consonants, colors, shapes, and numbers fills the day with joyful sounds of learning. Musical involvement also fills the air with both "silly songs" and worship songs. Director and 4K teacher Mrs. Peggy Lowery, along with her staff, have created one of the finest pre-school programs in Darlington and the surrounding communities. It is recognized by parents, public schools teachers, and administrators as an excellent school. The children from Southside score well above average in their testing, and they perform extremely well as they enter public, private, or Christian schools. The school has a maximum capacity of fifty students and is presently maxed out with a long waiting list. God has been good to provide this ministry for the people of Southside Church and the surrounding area.

VENTRILOQUIST VISITS NEW PROSPECT



On Monday, November 26, 2007, New Prospect Christian School in Pamplico, SC, had a special guest in their morning chapel service. Mrs. Judy Smith, previous Free Will Baptist missionary to Japan for 17 years, came with her puppet Kasee to visit the students at New Prospect School.

This was her fifth year coming to visit with the students. For more information on having Judy Smith visit your church, feel free to contact her at the following address: PO Box 1289, Beulaville, NC 28518. Also, her contact number is 910-290-1435.

MASTER'S MEN ASSIST IN RESTORING RIDGE CHURCH

NEARLY 200 YEARS, the Church on the Ridge has stood above the town of New Durham, New Hampshire, as a monument to the early days of Free Will Baptists. The simple frame building, constructed in 1819, was home to the congregation started by Elder Benjamin Randall in 1780. The building is the oldest standing Free Will Baptist church in America. It lies just over a mile from the Randall family cemetery where the founder of the Northern Free Will Baptist movement is buried. Over the years, thousands of Free Will Baptists have visited the historic site to catch a glimpse of their legacy. In recent years, despite consistent maintenance efforts of First FWB Church in New Durham, the building has fallen into disrepair. The affects of time have caught up with the aging landmark. Delegates to the 2007 National Convention in Little Rock, Arkansas, voted to fund efforts to restore the Church on the Ridge and to establish a perpetual fund to provide ongoing upkeep. Master's Men Director Ken Akers will work in conjunction with the church in New Durham to coordinate teams of volunteers to complete the task. If you would like to be a part of volunteering or are able to contribute financially to this wonderful task, feel free to contact Master's Men at 877-767-8039.

SC ANNUAL YOUTH RETREAT



There were a lot of fun things to do at this year's youth retreat in Myrtle Beach which took place in November. Students were able to run around shooting each other in a laser tag arena, race around in go-carts at the NASCAR speed park, and enjoy dinner minus the utensils while watching the performance at the Dixie stampede. All these things were great but we hope that they are not what the students remember the most. We hope they remember the messages about temptation, humility, and other important Biblical truths delivered by our speaker, Gowdy Cannon from Chicago, who is also originally from Horse Branch Free Will Baptist Church in Turbeville, SC. We hope they remember the times where we all joined together to worship God. Having fun is great, but it is not why we have the youth retreat each year. We do it to reach out to students and make an impact in their life and hope to possibly see someone come to know Christ as their Lord and Savior. If your youth group was not involved this year, we hope you will join us next year and be a part of what God is doing in and through our youth.

- By Jonathan Postlewaite, Youth Ministries Board Member





2008 State Meeting Schedule

The 66th annual session of the South Carolina State Association of Original Free Will Baptists meeting will take place February 28-29, 2008 at Horse Branch FWB Church in Turbeville. In the past, the state meeting has been hosted by a particular conference or association; however, due to the completion of the new state office in Turbeville, the Executive Committee voted for the State Association to host the meeting requesting that each conference participate in a combined effort in hosting the meeting. It is being requested that each conference contribute \$500 to assist with the cost of meals and expenses for the meeting. The plan is to have the dedication of the new state office building during the state meeting. The following is a schedule of the meeting:

Wednesday, February 27, 2008:

General Board Meeting at 10 AM at Horse Branch FWB Church

Thursday, February 28, 2008:

8:30 AM - Registration

9:00 AM - Welcome & Call to Order

9:15 AM - Devotion - Rev. Chad West (Northgate FWB Ch)

9:30 AM - State Ministry Reports

10:50 AM - Recess

11:00 AM Morning Worship - Message: Rev. Wayland Owens (First FWB Church, Kingstree)

Noon - Recess for Lunch

Dedication of the New State Office - Devotion:

Rev. Sherwood Lee, Moderator (Sandhill, Scranton)

1:20 PM - Reports Continued

7:00 PM - Evening Worship Service - Guest Speaker:

- Dr. Matt Pinson, FWBBC, Nashville, TN

Friday, February 29, 2008:

9:00 AM - Welcome & Congregational

9:05 AM - Devotion - Rev. Jody Wynn (FWB Bible Church, Darlington)

9:20 AM - Final Reports

11:00 AM - Worship Service - Rev. Johnny Evans (EC)

12:00 Noon - Lunch and Adjournment

FWB CHILDREN'S HOME DAY

Homecoming at the Free Will Baptist Children's Home in Turbeville, SC, turned out to be a great success this year. It was held on Saturday, November 3, 2007. Tours began at 10 AM, and special singing was provided by the youth at Horse Branch FWB Church. The Children's Home staff, board members, and past and present children were given special recognition during the event. Special music was provided by the Jeff Floyd family. Executive Secretary Todd Smith preached the message for the worship service. The staff served a delicious meal for everyone after the worship service. Rev. Roy Roach, the Children's Home director, announced that the offering for the day was \$20,000! This offering included a special gift of \$12,000 from the Mullins-Marion FWB Church. After this \$20,000 was applied to the debt at the Children's Home, the debt was reduced to less than \$200,000.00. Great gratitude was expressed to Pastor Neil Hinson and the Mullins-Marion Church for their sacrificial giving. Special appreciation was expressed to the many individuals and churches who brought necessary items to help supply the needs of the home. Homecoming for the FWB Children's Home in Turbeville is always held on the first Saturday in the month of November.

Pictured Right:
Attendees enjoy the
worship service.



Pictured Left: Board members, Larry Hawkins and Rev. Allen Goodman, enjoy fellowship with one another on Children's Home Day.

The Informer is a bi-monthly publication of the South Carolina Free Will Baptist State Office located at 1169 Atkinson Street, Turbeville, SC 29162. The Informer is distributed in the second month of each publication. The purpose of the Informer is to share news and events relating to South Carolina Free Will Baptist churches and their ministries that are a part of the National Association of Free Will Baptist located in Antioch, TN. Any suggested news worthy articles and pictures are encouraged to be submitted to Executive Secretary Todd Smith by the 1st day of the 2nd month of each publication. Please forward all information to ToddSmith@scfwb.com, or mail the information to PO Box 9, Turbeville, SC 29162. In advance, thank you for your help.