

THE



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INFORMER

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72nd Annual Convention Meets in Charleston, WV

SEVENTEEN YEARS AFTER what many consider to have been “the greatest national convention,” Free Will Baptists returned to Charleston, West Virginia, to see if God would do it again. The same genuine warmth and enthusiasm met Free Will Baptists at the door as nearly 6,000 delegates ignored \$4 per gallon gas prices to meet deep in the Appalachian Mountains. Many who attended the convention declared the 2008 convention to be “greatest national convention.”

While the holy fire still glowed during worship services like it did in 1991, times had changed in other areas. The five-day convention now crowded into four; the \$11 million 1991 Free Will Baptist denomination budget zoomed to almost \$26 million; and a growing convention filled every available space in the city beside the river.

EARLY IMPACT

The 2008 convention started with a bang as volunteers from Alabama, Ohio, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Indiana, Alabama, and West Virginia arrived in the Greater Charleston Area a day early to participate in Impact West Virginia. The annual outreach event gives convention attendees an opportunity to give back to the host city.

In spite of sizzling temperatures, excited volunteers participated in door-to-door evangelism, hosted a children’s festival, renovated a church, and shared their enthusiasm with churches across the area. “I can’t tell you how excited we are that you have come to help us today,” host Dan Kelly told volunteers at the Chesapeake FWB Church, located 20 minutes south of Charleston. “I can’t wait to see what God does!”

(Convention News Continued on Page 2)



SCFWB Camps

Fishing, Swimming, Rollerblading, and Rock Wall Climbing were just a few of the things that campers were able to participate in at this year’s South Carolina Free Will Baptist Teen Camp, which was held June 9-14, 2008, at Lake Waccamaw in North Carolina. There was a total of 71 teen camp attendees including sponsors. Reverend Bruce Kimbrell, Youth Ministries Board member and pastor at Temple FWB Church in Darlington, was the guest speaker for teen camp. There was one salvation decision during the week of camp. All the effort put into teen camp was worth that one salvation decision.

Junior Camp took place July 28-August 1, 2008, at Camp Pee Dee in Marion, SC. There were 85 campers and 22 staff and sponsors with a total of 107 for the week of Junior Camp. Reverend Jody Wynn, pastor at the FWB Bible Church in Darlington, was the guest speaker for the week. Each year, “Campers of the Week” are selected by staff and sponsors. This year’s “Campers of the Week” were Payton Barnhill from Mt. Trolley FWB Church in Galivants Ferry and Aaron Fulmer from Marion, SC. Junior campers are pictured below.



2008 Fall Teen Retreat Reminder

This year’s Fall Teen Retreat will take place Friday through Sunday, October 24-26, 2008, at Myrtle Beach, SC. The retreat is for ages 12-18. The guest speaker will be Reverend Seth Allen. The retreat will include the Nascar Theme Park, the Dixie Stampede, and much more. The cost is \$125 per teen. Feel free to download a brochure and application on the SC FWB web site at www.scfwb.com on the Youth Ministries page.

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72nd Annual Free Will Baptist Convention News Continued

ENTHUSIASTIC WORSHIP

The excitement carried over into convention worship services where soul-stirring congregational singing, powerful preaching, and rousing special numbers left their mark on attendees.

Sunday morning, after a Sunday School lesson taught by Jim Hutchison (WV), Ivan Asbury, former home missionary and West Virginia pastor, spoke from 1 Corinthians on "Walking by Faith."

Following a cordial welcome from Charleston Mayor Danny Jones, the Sunday evening service was punctuated by spirited music featuring the McCorkle FWB Church choir (WV). Their music brought the congregation to its feet. West Virginia native and Assistant Moderator of the National Association William Smith spoke on, "Preparing the Way."

Monday evening, West Virginia native Jim Christian (currently pastoring in Florida) examined the topic, "Walking in the Truth." The sermon was preceded by a song service that featured the old hymn favorite, "Amazing Grace," and other traditional songs of faith. As one attendee remarked, "The music selections seemed tailored for Jim's message."

Dr. Stanley Outlaw reminded the congregation to "Walk Carefully and Walk Circumspectly" during his sermon Tuesday evening following special music by the Temple Quartet.

During the Wednesday evening's annual missions service, missionaries, both home and international, were introduced during a flag-studded walk across the convention stage. New missionaries from both agencies shared in a commissioning service before Moderator Tim York (TN) addressed the theme, "Walking as Children of Light."

Throughout the week, Chris Truett, convention music coordinator, produced an inspiring program that featured a mass choir with more than 100 voices, an orchestral ensemble, and a vocal accompaniment group. Every service featured rousing specials and enthusiastic congregational singing.

ALL BUSINESS

On Monday morning, the focus of the convention turned to business as the General Board set a record by blazing through eight department reports, two commission reports, and a final greeting from retiring WNAC Executive Secretary Treasurer Majorie Workman in just under five hours. In addition to recommending agency budgets to convention delegates, the General Board recommended Little Rock, Arkansas, for the 2018 convention, recommended a proposed funding plan by the International Missions Department, and recommended that an overhaul of the "Election of Officers" section of the Free Will Baptist Treatise be tabled until 2009.

Business continued Tuesday afternoon when Moderator Tim York kicked off the 2008 convention business session with a brief devotional. Two and a half hours later, delegates had elected 20 board and commission members, adopted a

Treatise change clarifying the meaning of marriage, tabled another Treatise change recommending that the nominating process be revisited in 2009, and heard reports from four national agencies and two commissions.

Executive Office

Executive Secretary Keith Burden announced the hiring of Ryan Lewis, 25-year-old FWBBC graduate, who will join the Executive Office staff August 4, as executive administrator. Initially, Lewis will serve as a convention planner. Later, he will assume duties with the annual Leadership Conference, manage www.fwbpastor.com, assist with Disaster Response Team efforts, work with the Palmer Leadership Institute, and represent the Executive Office at denominational events. The Executive Office is debt-free after "an incredible turnaround financially." ONE Magazine, the denomination's official publication added 6,100 subscribers in the past year, surpassing 60,000 readers. Beginning this fall, the Executive Office plans to initiate the Palmer Leadership Institute, a program to provide resources for pastors and state leaders.

Master's Men

Master's Men announced a new website at www.FWBMastersmen.org and a new logo. Director Ken Akers thanked delegates for a record Father's Day offering. The department added 10 chapters this year as it celebrated 51 years of operation. The department sponsored three work projects this year. They assisted a Home Missions church with landscaping (AK), roofed and shored up the historic Ridge Church (NH), and constructed a storage barn for a mission church (AR).

Board of Retirement

Director Ray Lewis paid tribute to Herman Hersey who founded the Board of Retirement in 1969 (and the FWB Foundation in 1980), calling him a visionary, a preacher, and a musician. Reverend Hersey died January 24, 2008. The agency added 116 enrollees this year. The retirement plan now has 1,543 participants, including 1,054 ordained ministers. Twenty-four percent of Free Will Baptist churches now contribute to their pastor's retirement, up from 13% just two years ago. The department reported assets of \$43 million with an expense ratio below 1%. Lewis explained that the 18.75% reported loss in returns for the first six months of 2008 resulted from a combination of current economic declines. He encouraged members to stick with their investments and ride out the dip in earnings.

FWB Foundation

The department reported assets up \$5.3 million to almost \$40 million, citing large increases in permanent assets such as endowments (up \$1.7 million) and planned gifts (up \$500,000). More than \$400,000 was generated for various Free Will Baptist ministries in 2007.

Theological Commission

The commission and Randall House are collaborating on a book project. The book will address current issues: postmodernism, terrorism, pop-culture theology, homosexuality/gay marriage, pornography, authority of Scripture, and more. This fourth volume of *Integrity: A Journal of Christian Thought* will be available later this year.

Historical Commission

The Historical Commission presented the third in a series of historical pamphlets, *Free Will Baptists and Church Government*. The 16-page booklet was written by Matt Pinson. Plans were announced to present the fourth historical pamphlet to delegates during the 2009 convention—*Free Will Baptists and the Priesthood of the Believer*.

WEDNESDAY TO REMEMBER

Delegates by the hundreds showed up Wednesday morning, filling the Civic Center floor seating section. By noon, they had heard and approved three department reports, given two standing ovations, elected six board members, and settled in for an expected long debate—then the lunch gavel fell.

Home Missions

Director Larry Powell reported that home missionaries made more than 300,000 contacts last year. Six mission projects were launched in 2007 (New York, Michigan, Alabama, Virginia, Colorado, and Hawaii), and five new church planters were appointed. Free Will Baptists have invested \$28 million with CELF, a loan fund to assist Home Mission churches. From 58 Hispanic graduates at the Gwen Hendrix Seminary in South Carolina to military chaplains in the armed forces, the department continues to impact the world. Three Home Missions churches became self-supporting this year.

Free Will Baptist Bible College

President Matt Pinson announced that FWBBC expects to close on a contract by mid-August to purchase a 66-acre site for a new campus in the Middle Tennessee area. The land is located 25 miles from the college's current campus. After a downturn in enrollment for the first time in six years, officials reported a 25% increase in student applications for the fall 2008 semester. The college will roll out a fully accredited online A.S. degree in Ministry this fall. An expanding academic program now includes degrees in biology education and pre-law studies to assist students who plan to enter the field of law.

Retired FWBBC employees Ralph and Margaret Hampton received a standing ovation for their service at the college. Ralph taught 50 years in the Biblical and Ministry Studies Department, and Margaret served 37 years as library manager. Board members Gene Outland (IL) and Archie Ratliff (NC) received plaques in recognition of 12 years on the Board of Trustees.

Randall House

Randall House won eight awards for excellence in the printing industry this year. The agency reported curriculum sales up 155% since 2001 and wants to develop a stronger relationship with state bookstores. Plans to upgrade product lines are underway. The department gave back more than \$72,000 to the denomination. Board members Nuel Brown (CA) and David Reece (TN) received plaques for 12 years of service.

International Missions

"I move we receive the report, refer the budget, and endorse the funding plan," with these words, International Missions' Board Chairman Danny Williams asked the delegates to give their support to a historic change in denominational missions funding at the NAFWB convention in Charleston, WV. General Director James Forlines shared a timeline of events leading to this decision during his report to convention delegates. Forlines recounted the most important steps, including a pivotal strategic planning session with all mission leaders in December of 2005 and the many regional meetings in 2008 to listen to state leaders and pastors. The spirit of the debate was brotherly and refreshing. Mr. Forlines and board chairman Danny Williams fielded questions from the floor as the 80-minute debate unfolded. When discussion ceased, delegates approved the new funding system by a vote of 375 to 58. The vote was the culmination of 25 regional meetings between mission personnel and 600 pastors and leaders over the past two years. The program will go into effect January 1, 2010. The centerpiece of the new system will be a Global Evangelism Fund that pays all costs for keeping missionaries on their fields.

Following the session, senior missionary Bobby Poole rejoiced, "Geneva and I believe this is a major step in the right direction. I am thrilled missionaries will no longer have to ask for money for themselves only, but will be able to tell Free Will Baptist people about the entire missions team." Kristi Johnson, missionary to Spain admitted, "I actually cried as I realized they (delegates) were standing in support of missions and missionaries around the world. I was proud to be a part of our denomination and honored to be one of the front-line workers they were so overwhelmingly supporting."

FINAL THINGS

Delegates heard brief reports from the Music and Media Commissions before giving a standing vote of appreciation to West Virginia for hosting the 2008 convention. The business meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m. to meet in 2009 in Cincinnati, Ohio. The theme for the 2009 convention will be "God's Great and Precious Promises."

National Youth Conference (NYC) Competition

“IT’S NOT ABOUT ME” proved to be a theme taken to heart by National Youth Conference participants. In three days, over 350 individuals logged 2,763 hours of community service in the Charleston area and gave 86 units of blood to the Red Cross through Reach That Guy projects. Students contributed a record \$8,821.71 to support global missions through the Buck-A-Week offering. Nearly 100 adults served as judges, MCs, and quizmasters for the 908 entries. The following South Carolina churches were represented at the NYC competitions this year: Liberty FWB Church, Manning; Peace FWB Church, Florence; Horse Branch FWB Church, Turbeville; Bay Branch FWB Church, Timmonsville; Temple FWB Church, Darlington; and Whitney FWB Church, Spartanburg. For students that participate in Bible competition, a trophy is given to first, second, and third place winners. For students that participate in music and arts categories, a first place trophy or ribbon is given to each contestant, and second and third place winners receive honorable mention. Below and on page 7 are the South Carolina Free Will Baptist contestant winners.



Maggie Driggers
Horse Branch, Turbeville
1st Place - Grade 11
Bible Memorization



Kaylynn Wells
Temple, Darlington
1st Place - Grade 8
Bible Memorization



Jessica Hyman
Bay Branch, Timmonsville
2nd Place - Grade 6
Bible Sword Drill



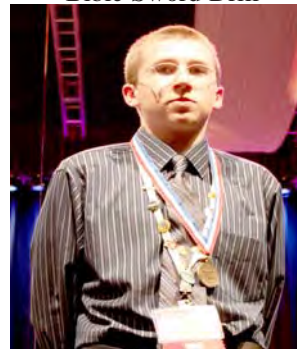
Cameron Smith
Horse Branch, Turbeville
2nd Place - Grades 7-9
Bible Truth Quest



Victoria Smith
Horse Branch, Turbeville
3rd Place - Grades 7-9
Bible Truth Quest



Bay Branch, Timmonsville
Dramatic Duo
Category B - 1st Place



Tyler Donaldson
Temple, Darlington
Essay - Category D - 1st



Jennifer Keefe
Whitney, Spartanburg
Poetry, Category D - 1st



Horse Branch Choir, Turbeville
Category B - 1st Place



Temple, Darlington
Group Drama
Category C - 1st Place



Ashley Brodgen
Temple, Darlington
Fabric Art
Category D - 1st Place

Southside Kindergarten Graduation



May 28, 2008, was another great day in the history of Southside Kindergarten at Darlington as they graduated another well-prepared group of children. For over ten years now Southside has been turning out some of the finest elementary students in the Darlington area. Southside Kindergarten Director, Mrs. Peggy Lowery and her staff are proud of all the students pictured above.

New Prospect Kindergarten Graduations



Students are all smiles as they graduate from 5-K at New Prospect Christian School. (Pictured: Front row, left to right: Mary Smith, Reagen Fryar, Houston Sailors, Mackenzie Gregory, and Andrew Graham. Back row, left to right: Austin Thompson, Dalton Collins, Gracelyn James, Taylor Wall, Dean Robinson, Devin Ard, Anna Cagle, and Brady Owens)



Graduates of 4-K pictured from left to right are as follows: Front row - Lilli Cockfield, Faith Callaway, Samantha Haselden, Gage Stone. Back row - Kara Tanner, Colton Burrows, Destiny Roberts, Sarah Kensley Baxley, and Coleman Johnson

New Prospect Honors Teacher of 59 Years



On Sunday, July 27, 2008, New Prospect FWB Church honored Mr. Bill Evans for his faithfulness in teaching the adult Sunday School Class for 59 years. He has been a great inspiration to many students. Mr. Bill still attends faithfully and gives God all the glory. He has often said, "God has been so good to me!" (Pictured above: Mr. Evans with his daughters on July 27, 2008)

New Prospect Christian School Graduation



Six students graduated from New Prospect this year. Melissa Renee Graziani, daughter of Dawn Cheek and Frank Graziani, transferred to New Prospect from Ohio in her tenth grade year. Jamie Lynn Haselden, daughter of Jesse and Elizabeth Haselden of Gresham, has been a student at New Prospect since the seventh grade. Salena Beck Johnson, daughter of Joe Johnson of Gresham, has spent her junior and senior years at New Prospect. Charles Joseph Nettles, known as Joey to his family and friends, is the son of Charles and Joann Nettles of Scranton. Joey re-entered New Prospect Christian School in the sixth grade. He received the Governor's Citizenship Award in 2007 as well as the Wendy's High School Heisman Award in 2008. Abbie Renee Prosser is the daughter of Jeff and Sandy Prosser of Sheminally and has spent the majority of her school years at New Prospect. Abbie was the 2008 NPCS reigning Homecoming Queen. Christopher Cody Tyler is the son of Cecil and Jackie Tyler of Hemingway and spent most of his school years at New Prospect. After each graduate received their diploma, roses were given to special family members by the graduates. As they walked the aisle one last time, graduation caps flew and cheers were heard as they reached the doorway a new chapter in their life. - By Nancy Marlowe

Gwen Hendrix Hispanic Institute Graduation

The Gwen Hendrix Hispanic Institute graduation was held on Saturday, June 7, 2008, at First Free Will Baptist Church in Inman, SC. Executive Secretary, Todd Smith preached the graduation ceremony. Students are required to fulfill 880 hours of training in order to graduate. There has been a total of 59 students that have graduated from the Gwen Hendrix Hispanic Institute. Many of the graduates are now serving as missionaries on various fields.



Missions Emphasis

SC Missionary Deficit Accounts

Below is listed the South Carolina missionaries whose accounts are in the red along with the deficit amount. The following amounts include the July 2008 giving from South Carolina churches.

David and Annette Aycock, Brazil	-\$22,006
Carlisle Hanna, India	-\$73,586
Bobby and Geneva Poole, Brazil	-\$23,022
Fernando Bustamante, Effingham	-\$6,020
Jim Fairchild, Aiken	-\$4,742
Total SC Missionary Deficits	-\$125,108

Please pray about what God might have you or your church to do in helping to reduce these deficit accounts.

Aycock Report

David and Annette are still carrying forth the ministry in Barbacena, Minas Gerais, Brazil. After twenty-one months of construction, their new church "Esperanca" was completed and dedicated on December 8, 2007, with 350 in attendance. They began this work on the west side of Barbacena in August 2005. All the services were held in David and Annette Aycock's home. The enclosed porch of their home was used for services and a Sunday school class. Other Sunday school classes met in various parts of their home. Not far from where David grew up, a piece of property was purchased for the future site of their church building. Several churches and individuals in the states contributed to their Vision Fund to make their dream a reality. The new church sanctuary has a seating capacity of 274. Since moving into their new facility, they have been blessed with eleven decisions for Christ. Their seminary, a Bible college level education offered to area churches, has moved from the apartment they were renting for the last eight years to the new "Esperanca Church" building. The Free Will Baptist in their area celebrated 50 years of Free Will Baptists in Brazil on April 21, 2008. During the 50 year celebration, five individuals made a profession of faith. Through all the blessings of God's work, David and Annette Aycock are facing a large deficit in their account. The fall of the dollar against the Real (the Brazilian currency) has been one reason for this deficit. Please continue to pray for the Aycocks and this great need.



Faithful FWB Church Dedicated

Missionary Carlisle Hanna continues to minister faithfully in India. Ever since his return in 2007, Missionary Hanna has faced many difficulties. However, through the difficulties, the work in India continues to go forth. Most recently, Faithful Free Will Baptist Church was dedicated to the Lord. Please continue to pray about what God might have you or your church to do to help reduce the deficit in his account.



Other News in Missions

During the past year, Tim and Kristi Johnson, missionaries to Spain have been traveling on stateside assignment to raise funds for their account. They went back to Spain in August 12, 2008 after many months of travel and itinerant services. Please pray for their children as they readjust to Spanish culture. Pray for their family and the Edgmon family as they work together to reach the town of Alpedrete.

Mirial Gainer continues to minister in Japan. Pray that God will give her opportunities to be a witness on her field of service. Also, please pray for her physical health as she has faced many difficulties.

Bobby and Geneva Poole came back to the states in July 2008 for stateside assignment. Please pray for them as they travel over the next several months in order to help remove the deficit from their account.

Andy and Andrea Moore (pictured right) are currently on stateside assignment. Please remember them in prayer as they travel across South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia over the next few months.

Our missionaries have left home, family, and friends in pursuit of fulfilling God's will for their lives in being a witness to the regions beyond. Thank you for your continued faithful support!



National Youth Conference Continued

Other NYC competitors in the Music and Arts category that received honorable mention included the following:

- 1) Vocal Duet, Category C - 2nd Place Peace, Florence
- 2) Vocal Duet, Category D - 3rd Place Horse Branch, Turbeville
- 3) Trios, Category B - 2nd Place Cousins for Christ Horse Branch
- 4) Keyboard, Category 5A - 3rd Place Macey Floyd Horse Branch
- 5) Individual Drama, Category A - 3rd Place Savannah Pace Peace, Florence
- 6) Individual Drama, Category C - 2nd Place Cameron Smith Horse Branch
- 7) Dramatic Duo, Category C - 3rd Place Double E's Horse Branch
- 8) Group Drama, Category A - 2nd Place Horse Branch
- 9) Group Drama, Category D - 3rd Place Temple, Darlington
- 10) Drawings, Category C - 3rd Place Jamie Hammers Peace, Florence
- 11) Computer Art, Category D - 2nd Place Allyssa Brogden Temple, Darlington



Hunter Langston
Temple, Darlington
Art, Category A - 1st Place

Many more contestants participated on church, conference, and state levels. We congratulate each contestant for their hard work in participating in the 2008 CTS/NYC competitions. We encourage your church to participate in the 2009 National Youth Conference. Preparations need to be made in advance. Please be sure to contact the current South Carolina CTS/NYC Director, Rev. Bruce Kimbrel for further details at 843-393-4003.



Pictured L to R:
Buddy Seay,
Sherwood Lee,
Brian Tolliver, and
Jimmy Aldridge
enjoy fellowship
during the
Convention



Pictured Left: Lacey Gordon,
Peace FWB Church, Florence enjoys
pre-school worship at the
NAFWB Convention

**Mark Your Calendars for
the 2009 NAFWB
Convention to be held July
19-22, 2008, in
Cincinnati, Ohio.**

Women National Active for Christ Convention

THE 2008 WNAC CONVENTION offered a mix of past and future, younger and older, known and unknown. "Taught by the Bible, Led by the Spirit" (TBLS), the 2008-2009 theme unveiled at the two-day event, encourages a back to the basics approach, challenging women to reexamine the foundational truths of Revelation, Redemption, and Relationship. Monday's afternoon tea provided a glance into the lives of four FWB pioneer missionary women. Mothers, daughters, and granddaughters listened together as Laura Thigpen, Mary Ruth Wisheart, Amanda Kilgore, and Lorene Miley shared amazing stories about pioneer missionaries. Tuesday's early morning session showcased both past and present. "Postcards from the Journey," a tribute to Marjorie Workman, WNAC Executive Secretary-Treasurer for the past 10 years, highlighted her many years and multiple avenues of ministry. Also, the following resolutions were passed during Tuesday's business session:

1. We recommend the Missionary Provision Closet be named the "Steward Provision Closet" in memory of Wendell and Lucille Steward from Michigan for their many years of labor for the Provision Closet.
2. We recommend that the WNAC Endowment Fund be named the "Marjorie Workman Endowment Fund."
3. We resolve as Free Will Baptist women that we reaffirm our stand against same-sex marriage and support an amendment to the U.S. Constitution designating marriage as being the union between one man and one woman. We encourage groups and individuals to send letters to legislators, state and national, to affirm our position.

During the Tuesday session, Mrs. Pam Hackett, South Carolina Women Active for Christ Coordinator, was recognized for awards for writing in the following categories:

1. Program - "Sink or Swim" First Place
2. Article - "Penny's Miracle" First Place
3. Article - "Giver of Life" Third Place
4. Devotional - "Harvest is Great" Third Place

We congratulate Mrs. Pam Hackett on winning these awards.



Pictured L to R:
Outgoing WNAC
Director, Mrs.
Marjorie Workman,
SC WAC Coordinator,
Pam Hackett, and
Incoming WNAC
Director Danita High

Thanks to members of the 2008 convention coverage team:
Convention Press Officer: Joy Nelson (TN)
Convention Press Intern: Derek Lewis (IL)
Business: Jack Williams (TN)
Worship: Ida Lewis (TN)
NYC: Danny Conn (TN)
WNAC: Sarah Fletcher (TN)
Photographer: Travis Penn (IL)
Videographer: Dustin Stokes (OK)
Editor: Eric K. Thomsen (TN)

SC WAC Retreat Reminder

We are looking forward to our retreat September 5th – 6th at White Oaks Conference Center. Don't forget to come dressed in military or patriotic attire for the Friday evening service. If you have reserved a table for your crafts, please send me an email at hackettp71@bellsouth.net or call me at 864-599-9512 to remind me of your reservation. Also, remember to bring your marshmallow roasting equipment and marshmallows for our bonfire on Friday evening. Please remember to write checks to SC WAC State when paying for the accommodations for the retreat. Please do not make the checks out to 'White Oaks' or 'Patty Newton'. We have prayed, planned and are prepared for great things to happen - come expecting a blessing and come prepared to be a blessing to others.

In Christ, Pam Hackett
SC WAC Coordinator

Sellers Accepts Pastorate



Reverend David Sellers Sr, member of the True Life Association, accepted the pastorate at Pine Grove FWB Church in Jefferson, SC. He accepted the pastorate on April 2, 2008. He and his Janet reside in Lancaster, SC. Please remember Reverend Sellers as he ministers at Pine Grove.

Fellowship Appreciation for Morgans

Neil, Mandi, and Emma Morgan visited with Fellowship FWB church on Sunday night July 20, 2008. Their visions and goals as future missionaries to the country of Uruguay were shared through an interesting and informative presentation. Afterwards the church showed their appreciation for their hard work as interim pastor of several months with a meal of soup, sandwiches, and dessert. A cake with the outline of Uruguay was presented to them along with a map of Uruguay covered completely with money equaling to a total of \$402.00. The church will miss them. Well wishes were extended to them as they embark upon a new avenue of God's will.



May/June 2008 Informer Correction:
The Mother/Daughter Banquet held at Liberty FWB Church in Lancaster on May 10, 2008 was Liberty's Mother/Daughter Banquet and not a Beaver Creek Banquet.

Emotional First Aid Conference

Where? Horse Branch FWB Church, Turbeville, SC

When? Friday and Saturday, October 10-11, 2008

What Time? Friday 7:00 p.m. / Saturday 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m

Who's Speaking? Dr. Edward Moody, author of the book *First Aid for Emotional Hurts*, will speaking on the following topics:

Session One: "What To Do When You Don't Know What To Do"

Session Two: "Helping Families Survive and Thrive"

Session Three: "Helping People Through Grief and Loss"

Lunch will be provided by Horse Branch Church on Saturday. Be sure to contact Horse Branch FWB Church 843-659-2361 to pre-register for this event.

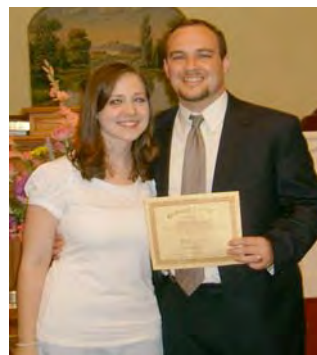
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Postlewaite Ordination



Jonathan Postlewaite was ordained at Bethany Free Will Baptist Church in Timmonsville on Sunday, July 27, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. Jonathan graduated from the Free Will Baptist Bible College and is currently attending Columbia International Seminary and School of Missions. He most recently served as Youth Pastor at Bethany FWB Church in Timmonsville. He began serving as the pastor at First

Free Will Baptist Church in Darlington on Sunday, August 1, 2008. He is also a member of the South Carolina Free Will Baptist Youth Ministries board. (Pictured Above: Jonathan Postlewaite with his wife Amy on the day of his ordination.)

Memorial to Fred Kirby



Reverend Fred Kirby

A large crowd of people gathered at Bethesda FWB Church of Camden on Monday, July 7, 2008, to celebrate the home going of Reverend Fred J. Kirby (Dec. 15, 1925 – July 5, 2008). Rev. Rusty Conyers (Pastor of Jefferson Road FWB Church, Sumter) and Rev. Bennie Wadford (Pastor of Bethesda FWB Church, Camden) brought the funeral messages with wonderful special music provided by

Mrs. Maria Conyers (wife of Rev. Rusty Conyers). Burial services, complete with a navy military guard, were conducted at Bethany FWB Church (Timmonsville) Cemetery.

Brother Fred Kirby was remembered for his soul winning zeal, his diligent Bible Study, and his faithful and consistent life. He began a mission church in Oklahoma before coming to South Carolina where he began the Calvary FWB Church (Georgetown), Jefferson Road FWB Church (Sumter), and Bethesda FWB Church (Camden). Reverend Fred served as South Carolina Home Mission Director, and he was very active in State and National causes before ill health denied him the ability to travel and participate. He was a great soldier for Jesus and he will be greatly missed.



Pictured L to R: Reverend Bennie Watford, pastor at Bethesda FWB Church, and Reverend Rusty Conyers, pastor at Jefferson Road FWB Church, on the day of Reverend Kirby's funeral.

Horse Branch VBS Benefits Morgans



Horse Branch Free Will Baptist Church met for Vacation Bible School the week of June 23-27, 2008.

The theme for the week was "Friendship Trek" as kids encountered exciting and daily friendship challenges setting them on the right path for faith, fun, and friendship. At the end of the week, they raised \$1,561.65 for Neil and Mandi Morgan, newly appointed missionaries to Uruguay.

Tragic Accident Claims Life of Faithful Deacon



Donald Gene Graham, Sr., age 57, of the Oak Grove Free Will Baptist Church, died Tuesday, June 10, 2008, in a tragic boating accident. Mr. Graham was born in Conway, a son of the late George Graham Junior and Carrie Lee Hucks Graham. He was a member of Oak Grove Original Freewill Baptist Church where he

served as Deacon for over 25 years, and served on the Cemetery & Building Committee. Mr. Graham worked in construction and was a security guard. For many years Donald Graham and Paul Graham worked together in the logging business. Surviving are one son, Donald Gene Graham, Jr. and fiancée' Brittney Ann Watts; two daughters, Selena Graham and husband Jay, Sabrina G. Evans and husband Dalton all of Conway, three grandchildren, Aaron Kyle Evans, Archie Jay Graham and Chloe Elizabeth Graham; one sister, Helen G. Vick and husband Douglas of Calabash, NC; many special aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews. Mr. Donald set the example of being faithful in his local church. -submitted by Reverend Tommy Bryson

Lighthouse VBS Benefits India



Lighthouse Free Will Baptist Church in Florence got "On Board With Noah" in Vacation Bible

School and raised \$288 towards bicycles for India. They had at least 49 kids each evening with 22 teens on Tuesday night. Friday night was their "Big Blast Party" complete with a dunkin' booth, plenty of food, and lots of fun. The following Sunday, one of the teens, Tyler Byrd, was saved! Pastor Brian Tolliver said, "We're looking forward to a great Vacation Bible School next year!"

Grace VBS Benefits Morgans

Vacation Bible School at Grace Free Will Baptist Church in Lake City was an exciting event this year. Everyone got involved in the "Amazon Expedition," and all the children were fully involved in the offering project. The offering this year was designated to newly appointed missionaries Neil and Mandi Morgan. It was boys verses girls to see who could bring in the most change. At the end of the week after all the change was counted the kids had brought in over \$860.00! Pastor Carroll Bazen said, "We are truly thank the Lord for a great week of Vacation Bible School."



Heb. 6:19

Book Your Hotel Stay for the 2009 State Meeting

The South Carolina Free Will Baptist 2009 State Meeting will be hosted by the Beaver Creek Association and will take place at Fairview Free Will Baptist Church in Spartanburg, SC, on Thursday and Friday, February 26-27, 2009. The General Board will convene at 10:00 AM on Wednesday, February 25, 2009, at Fairview Church. The Thursday evening guest speaker will be Reverend Lorenza Stox, President of Southeastern Free Will Baptist Bible College in Wendell, NC. Reverend Stox will also be preaching at Fairview Church on Wednesday evening, February 24, 2009, and the Southeastern Choir will be providing special music for the Wednesday night service. The headquarter hotel for the 2009 state meeting will be the Best Western (previously Fairfield Inn) at 125 Sloan Garden Road in Spartanburg. The special rate of \$49 will be given to state meeting attendees. Feel free to contact Best Western at 864-699-0000 to book your stay. Be sure to give them code "SCFWB" in order to receive the discounted price.

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Executive Secretary Todd Smith's Schedule

August

- 2 Beaver Creek Conference, Westgate, Arcadia, SC
- 3 Lebanon FWB Church, Effingham, SC
- 5 Conway Minister's Breakfast
- 9 Eastern Conference Youth Rally - Gilead FWBC
- 10 Evergreen FWB Church, Aynor, SC
- 12 Florence Area Minister's Breakfast
- 17 Peace FWB Church, Florence, SC
- 17 Little Star FWB Church, Lake City, SC
- 19 Lake City Minister's Breakfast
- 20 Camp Branch FWB Church, Scranton, SC
- 23 Eastern Conference Meeting - Gilead FWBC
- 24-27 Revival - Black River FWB Church, Andrews, SC
- 31 Columbia FWB Church, Columbia, SC

September

- 2 Conway Minister's Breakfast
- 6 Children's Home Golf Tournament
- 7 Community FWB Church, Florence, SC
- 9 Florence Area Minister's Breakfast
- 14 North Spartanburg FWB Church, Spartanburg, SC
- 16 Lake City Minister's Breakfast
- 20 True Life Conference Meeting - Mt. Carmel, York
- 21-24 Revival - Mt. Elon, Pamplico, SC
- 28-Oct 1 Revival - Lighthouse, Florence, SC

October

- 2 SC Conference Missions Luncheon, Florence, SC
- 3 South Carolina Conference Meeting
- 7 Conway Minister's Breakfast
- 11 Central Association Meeting, Unity, Johnsonville
- 14 Florence Area Minister's Breakfast
- 21 Lake City Minister's Breakfast
- 25 Beaver Creek Conference Meeting, Spartanburg
- 26 Little Star FWB Church, Lake City, Homecoming

Children's Home Dorm Parents Needed

The SC FWB Home for Children is looking for dorm parents for children infant - 8 years old. Please contact Children's Home Director Roy Roach at 843-659-2880 for further details.

Historical Archives

WANTED: Back issues of The Informer (and other Free Will Baptist papers), for the Free Will Baptist Historical Collection. Please contact Dr. Robert Picirilli at 301 Greenway Avenue, Nashville, TN 37205, or you may email him at picirillir@bellsouth.net. For further details or questions, you can also call him at 615-297-0183. In advance, thank you for your help in preserving our history.

The Informer is a bimonthly 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 15th day of the 1st month of each publication. Please forward all information to ToddSmith@scfwb.com. All articles are subject to editing and exclusion based on content and space availability.