

July - August 1996

# The Informer



*The Informer* is the official bi-monthly publication of the South Carolina State Association of Free Will Baptists. Address all correspondence to Ron Moore, Editor, Post Office Box 13266, Florence, South Carolina, 29504 or call (803) 662-5010.

## *Hillside Celebrates 40th Anniversary*

Hillside Free Will Baptist Church, located on Purvis Drive, Florence, South Carolina, celebrated its fortieth anniversary on July 14, 1996. Special plaques were presented to three of the original charter members: Julia Dubose (left), Ben Stone (right), and Gertrude Cribb (not pictured). A second plaque was presented to the church by Pastor Todd Smith (center) honoring all nine charter members, including six who are deceased.



Hillside was organized on July 15, 1956 in a rented house. The congregation laid the foundation for the first sanctuary on Thanksgiving day in 1956 on a lot donated by Mr. Charlie Purvis. They held the first service in the new sanctuary in January 1957.

In 1962 they built Sunday School rooms; in 1966, a small fellowship hall; in 1980, a parsonage; and, in 1984, a larger fellowship hall. After several renovation projects from 1990 to 1995, the church has a completely new look.

The Lord has blessed the church with several fine pastors during these forty years. They are: Leland Powell, Lloyd Gore, Paul Clayton, Melvin Adams, Gene Ramsey, Frank Young, Van Powell, Don Tyndall, Jimmy Miller, Buddy Seay and Todd Smith, the current pastor.

We rejoice with this fine congregation in all that God has done for them.

## *Black River Sends 864 Bibles to Mexico*

About two months ago Pastor John Hudson confiscated all the Bibles of those attending the morning worship service. The congregation was then able to understand a little better what it was like not having one. As a result, the church began a project to purchase Bibles for Mexican believers. Enough funds were raised for 864 Bibles!



A special service consecrating the Bibles to the Lord's work was held Sunday evening, July 14, 1996. The Bibles will be used by believers at the Ebenezer FWB Church in Renosa and for a door-to-door visitation program of the Bible Institute.

Many members of Black River Church, Sunday School and VBS contributed to the project. The Olive Branch Book Store, Georgetown (owed by Marshall and Jennifer Beasley, members of Black River), donated 250 Bibles and paid for all shipping expenses.

We give thanks to our Lord for all that the Black River Church does to help expand God's kingdom around the world.

## *White Savannah Honors Pastor and Wife*

Sunday morning, April 28, 1996, was a very special day at White Savannah Free Will Baptist Church, Conway, South Carolina. It was **Pastor Appreciation Day!** The church honored Pastor Buddy Seay, his wife, Vicki,

and their two daughters, Elizabeth and Sarah Anne.

The church had made preparations for the special day for many weeks in advance. They shortened Sunday School. They rolled white cloth down the aisle for Pastor Seay and his family to enter the sanctuary on. Each Sunday School class honored the Seays with cards and gifts. The church surprised them by giving Brother Seay a 10x10 storage building and Sister Vicki a dishwasher. In addition, more than \$1,000 was tied on a golden money tree in the fellowship hall by members of the congregation and then given to the pastor and his family.



Brother Seay said that the best was yet to come, however. During the morning worship service, former pastor, Rev. Billy Baker, preached. One precious soul was saved and another rededicated their life to the Lord!

After the service, the congregation gathered for a meal in the fellowship hall. Brother Buddy Seay will soon begin his fourth year as pastor of White Savannah.

## New Prospect Graduates Eleven Students

Commencement service for the eleven members of the graduating class at New Prospect Christian School was held Friday evening, May 31, 1996.

Rev. Mirchael Jones, pastor of Grace FWB Church in Lake City, South Carolina, delivered the commencement message. New Prospect Christian School is a ministry of New Prospect FWB Church. Rev. Joe Cagle is pastor/administrator and Ms. Lula P. Mims is school supervisor.

Juliette Neil, who enrolled at New Prospect as a first grader, was Valedictorian of her graduating class with a 98.38 gpa. She plans to attend Francis Marion University. Brandon Poston was named Salutatorian with a 98.6 gpa. He plans to attend Holmes Bible Seminary. Julie Powell was the co-Salutatorian with a 98.4 gpa. She plans to pursue a degree in veterinary medicine from Francis Marion and the University of Georgia.

Four other students graduated with honors. They are: Carroll Bazen, with a 95.9 gpa; Crystal Bellflowers, with a 95.5 gpa; Brian Matthews with a 93.5 gpa.; and Janelle Marcum, who graduated with a powder blue cord for her math honors.



Carroll Dewayne  
Bazen



Crystal Gale  
Bellflowers



David Christopher  
Fazakerly



Joey Allen  
Gaskins



Janelle LaSon  
Marcum



Brian Eric  
Matthews



Otis Lewis  
Miles



Juliette Ellen  
Neil



Brandon Matthews  
Poston



Julie Ann  
Powell



Donald Russell  
Timmons

## Two SC Students Graduate from FWBCC

Free Will Baptist Bible College graduated 45 students from 12 states in commencement exercises held on the Nashville campus Thursday, May 16.

**Kristi Johnson**, Westside Free Will Baptist Church, Hemingway, was awarded the Bachelor of Science Degree (Elementary Education/Missions) and graduated Magna Cum Laude (3.5 GPA). Kristi was also honored by receiving the Outstanding Teacher Education Graduate award and the Most Outstanding Student award. Congratulations, Kristi!

**Jason Bennie Turner**, Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church, Manning, will receive the Bachelor of Science Degree (Youth Ministry) upon completion of studies this summer. Jason is presently living in Manning and is available for supply preaching, revivals, youth meetings, etc. You may contact him at (803) 435-8979.

## Three SC Students Make Dean's List

Freshmen **Corrie Coker**, Turbeville, **Carla Coker**, Timmonsville, and senior **Kristi Johnson**, Hemingway, made the 1996 spring semester Dean's List at Free Will Baptist Bible College. Corrie and Kristi made the "A" Honor Roll. Carla made the "B" Honor Roll. Congratulations, young ladies!



Free Will Baptist Bible College will conduct a conference on church growth featuring church growth specialist Dr.

Kenneth Hemphill on September 18-20, 1996.

Dr. Hemphill is President of Southwestern Theological Seminary in Forth Worth Texas and former director of the Center for Church Growth in Atlanta, Georgia. He will conduct six sessions on Wednesday and Thursday, including topics such as "Setting the climate for church growth," "Developing leadership for growth," and "The Biblical mandate for growth."

The conference begins with an evening service on Wednesday, September 18, and concludes at noon on Friday, September 20. The cost is \$20 per person, or \$15 per person for couples and for three or more from the same church. For more information, write or call:

**Church Growth, '96**  
**Free Will Baptist Bible College**  
**3606 West End Avenue**  
**Nashville, Tennessee 37205**  
**615/383-1340**

## ***Maranatha Holds Twenty-third Graduation***

Maranatha Christian School, a ministry of First Free Will Baptist Church, Florence, South Carolina, held its twenty-third commencement service on May 31, 1996. Dr. Charles Thigpen, Chancellor of Free Will Baptist Bible College, brought the commencement address. Rev. Mike Creech is pastor of the church.

Amy Harrell received the Valedictorian Award. For the first time in the school's history, a diploma was presented to someone whose parents attended Maranatha. That diploma went to Jonathan McAllister, son of Rita Lee McAllister.

Rachel Creech plans to attend Free Will Baptist Bible College; Susanna Dilda, Southeastern Free Will Baptist College; Michael Sykes, Bob Jones University; and Amy Harrell, Winthrop College. Joseph Jenkins is working at Superior Machines in Florence and Jonathan McAllister is uncertain about his plans.



Rachel Creech



Susanna Dilda



Amy Harrell



Joseph Jenkins



Jonathan McAllister



Michael Sykes

## ***Rev. David Anders New Pastor at Pine Grove***

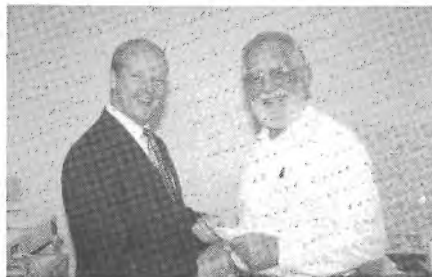
Pine Grove Free Will Baptist Church, located on Highway 903 in Jefferson, South Carolina, has called Brother David Anders as its new pastor. Brother Anders recently retired as pastor of New Life FWB Church where he served for more than fifteen years. It seems that some preachers just cannot stay out of the saddle!

Rev. and Mrs. Anders said that they were looking forward to a great work to be done at Pine Grove through the help of Lord Jesus Christ. They ask that we remember them and the church in our prayers. We praise God for the faithfulness of this fine couple and know that God is going to bless their ministry as they continue serving Him during their retirement years.

## ***Southeastern Launches Development Program***

The Southeastern Free Will Baptist College Board of Directors approved preliminary plans for a proposed new multi functional facility estimated to cost in excess of \$850,000. The new complex, when completed, will house additional administration, academic, activity areas for student programs and space for athletic needs as well, such as a full-size gym and game rooms.

## ***Lebanon VBS Raises Funds For Aiken***



**Rev. Reedy Severance and  
Missionary Pastor Mark Barber**

The Vacation Bible School at Lebanon Free Will Baptist Church, Effingham, raised \$872 for the *'Acres For Aiken* land project. The church added another \$128 to the offering and presented Mark Barber, missionary pastor to Aiken, a check for \$1,000! During revival services last November, the Lebanon Church gave \$4,440 to help reduce the land debt.

The VBS program, held June 9-14 at the church, averaged 61 in attendance. The theme for the program was "Camp Courageous." Chris Allen was named "Outstanding Camper of the Week."

A.C. and Judy Allen served as co-directors of the program. Sister Susan Hobart, a member of Wooddale Free Will Baptist Church in Knoxville, Tennessee, taught the teen class and assisted the directors. Rev. Reedy Saverance is pastor of Lebanon.

## ***Hillsdale FWB College Gains Victory***

According to Jim Shepherd, President of Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College, the Honorable Frank Keating, Governor of the State of Oklahoma, has signed a bill into law which requires the Oklahoma State Regents For Higher Education to recognize all national accrediting agencies that are duly authorized by the Secretary of the United States Department of Education. This means that Hillsdale's accreditation by the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools is now accepted by the State Regents. Brother Shepherd said that the college will open classes on August 26, thus continuing a thirty-seven year tradition of Christian education.

### **Promotional Office Property Fund Report**

**Balance due January 1997  
\$14,400**

**Balance on hand July 1996  
\$3,181.16**

**Funds still needed  
\$11,218.84**

**We need your help to raise the remaining \$11,218. This will be the last payment on the property.**

## Junior Class Raises Pop Willey Funds



The Junior Class of the Popular Hill Free Will Baptist Church in Hemingway raised \$62.25 for the 1996 Pop Willey Foreign Missions Offering. Most of those in this class, pictured with Mrs. Linda Stepps, teacher, ride the church van to Sunday School and have only been attending since January of this year. Rev. James Stepps, pastor of Popular Hill, commends the class for their generosity.

## Faith Calls Sam Truett



After thirty years of ministry, Rev. Sam Truett returns to his native Darlington as the new pastor of Faith Free Will Baptist Church. Prior to coming to Faith, Brother Sam pastored Mount Calvary FWB Church in Smithfield, North Carolina, for twenty-one years. Other pastorates include First FWB Church, Hartsville, Beulah FWB Church, Pamplico, and First FWB Church, Kingstree, all in South Carolina.

Brother Truett is married to the former Ann Boseman, also a native of Darlington. They have one son, Chris, who is minister of music at Unity FWB Church, Greenville, NC.

Welcome home, Brother and Sister Truett! May the Lord richly bless your ministry at Faith.

## Faith VBS Raises \$700 For Pooles

Faith FWB Church, Darlington, SC, held its annual VBS June 24-28, 1996. The theme for the event was, "Ready! Set! Roll!-- Winning God's Way." Average attendance was sixty-three.

One of the highlights of the program was the fund raiser for Bobby and Geneva Poole, missionaries to Brazil. The boys and the girls competed to see who could bring the most

money *in weight*. Every night the children brought their change, mostly in pennies; it was weighed; and, then, the results tabulated and posted on a chart. The only incentive was that the losers had to serve the tables of the winners at the Friday night hot dog supper. The girls served the boys that night as they won with 211½ lbs. The girls had 180½ lbs. When all the coins were counted, the children had raised \$698.21. The church added the rest to make a grand total of \$700.



TJ Byrd and Mark James with check

Tony Byrd served as director of the VBS. Rev. Sam Truett, newly called pastor of the church, expressed his sincere thanks to the network of people that God used to make it all possible.

## Buddy Seay Receives Master of Arts Degree



Saturday, May 18, 1996 Rev. Buddy Seay, Pastor of White Savannah Free Will Baptist Church received his Master of Arts in Theology degree from the Carolina University of Theology, Charlotte, North Carolina. Congratulations, Brother Buddy!

**Rev. Ron Moore,**  
**your State Promotional Director,**  
**is available for a limited number**  
**of revivals, special services,**  
**and pulpit supply.**  
**You may contact him at**  
**the Promotional Office (803-662-5010)**  
**or at home (803-665-2396)**

## Tabernacle Erects New Sign



Tabernacle Free Will Baptist Church, Coward, South Carolina, erected a new sign in 1995. It is approximately 10'x10' in size and cost \$6,000. The church purchased the sign from Jim Stewart Signs out of Florida. The church also created a new drive entrance to the church from off the main road. The new sign is located at this entrance. Rev. Ralph Byars is the pastor.

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