

THE



INFORMER

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

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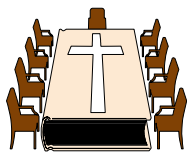
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MARCH 2002

GREAT STATE MEETING

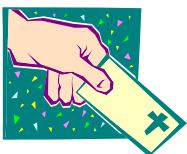
Many people had spent time and effort in prayer that God would move in a marvelous way in our 60th Annual State Meeting and I am happy to report that their prayers were answered. The Business went very smoothly, the Sermons and Devotions were greatly used of the Lord, the fellowship among Christian brothers was very sweet, and the Palmetto Conference did an outstanding job of hosting and feeding the convention. Here are the high lights of the meeting:

* **Moral Stand:** The State Association voted overwhelmingly to withdraw fellowship from conferences and churches that allowed sexually fallen ministers to return to a Pastoral Position. God will graciously forgive and use such a person but SCFWB believe he should not return to the pulpit as a Pastor. (Full Text of the motion is on Page 8).



* **General Board Changes:** The opinion most people had about the General Board make up did not agree with the actual wording in our Constitution so the Constitution was amended to state that the General Board is composed of the State Executive Committee, the State Field Directors and/or Chairmen of the Boards of the various departments of the State Association, and a member elected from each conference. This will allow the General Board to more fully deal with matters during the session before the State Meeting; which, it is hoped, will allow the State Meeting to spend more time in Worship and less time dealing with minor details.

* **Name Change:** In order to be better understood by Non-Free Will Baptists organizations, the title of the State Promotional Director was changed to State Executive Secretary and the Promotional Office was changed to the SCFWB State Office. This is simply a "Cosmetic" change that does not effect the duties or functions of this office.



* **Minister's Benevolent Fund Begun:** Permission was given by the State Association to begin a Benevolent Fund for state ministers that would be fully funded by the state ministers and would be used to give an immediate gift in the event of the death of a minister or his wife. Subscription forms are being sent to all ministers in the state.

Way to Go SCFWB. You heard the need and you responded. **Missionary to Japan, Mirial Gainer's account** was \$18,000 in the red in August of 2001. South Carolina Free Will Baptists responded and gave her an extra \$15,000 above their normal giving in the past 7 months and her account deficient is down to \$4,000. Keep up the good work and let's turn her red numbers into solid black!

State Association Meeting News Continued:

* **From Peace to Peace:** Peace FWB Church, Spartanburg (Pastor Johnny Bullman) did a great job hosting this year's State Meeting. Peace FWB Church, Florence (Pastor Donnie Miles) is excited about doing an equally good job as they host the 2003 State Meeting, February 27-28, 2003.



Peace FWB Church, Florence



Moderator, Sherwood Lee, Clerk, Todd Smith, and Assistant Moderator, Buddy Seay guided the 2002 session.

*** 2002 State Officers:**

- Moderator: Sherwood Lee (SCC)
- Asst Moderator: Buddy Seay, Jr (CA)
- Clerk: Todd Smith (BC)
- Asst. Clerk: Marty Cox (CA)
- Treasurer: Joe McKnight (SCC)
- Asst Treasurer: Doug Mathis (EC)
- Member at Large: Rickey Evans (EC)
- National General Board Member: Jimmy Brown (SCC)

Jackie Creech was elected as Director of the Poston Baggett Loan Fund. Richard Conyers was elected as Director of the State Youth Camp (Cyrus Shoffner was elected to fulfill the unexpired term of Richard Conyers on this board)



The Thursday Night Offering raised enough to purchase a motor Bike for a Pastor in India- Glory!

Elected for a five year term ending in 2007:

- Todd Black to the Poston Baggett Loan Fund
- Brad Porter to the Church Training Board
- Carroll Bazen to the State Youth Camp Board
- Paul Childers to the Children's Home Board
- Larry Hawkins to the Children's Home Board
- Johnny Bullman to fulfill the unexpired term of Dennis Kiser on the Children's Home Board.

Resolutions were passed:

- 1) Urging Prayers for the many new leaders in our National Association that God would guide them to make the coming years the best that Free Will Baptists have ever experienced.
- 2) Reaffirming the stand that South Carolina Free Will Baptists have made against the evils of Gambling in any form; and forwarding this stand to the legislative leaders of our state.
- 3) Expressing appreciation to the Peace FWB Church and the Palmetto Conference for the fine job they did in hosting the 60th Annual State Meeting.

Worship was wonderful:

The Devotional Messages and the Main Messages all clearly echoed our theme this year of "A Call to Holiness" (Tapes of many of the messages are available by requesting them from your SCFWB State Office).

Everything went so smoothly until we were able to complete all business by 10:30am on Friday so the Afternoon devotion was given first and the final message capped off the services enabling us to dismiss at Noon on Friday. A sweet Spirit hovered over all of the services and it was a joy to see God's hand so mightily at work.

The 155 registered delegates, ministers, and visitors scattered all over South Carolina following the meeting with hearts that had been blessed and souls that had been stirred to do more than ever to reach a lost world for Christ. May this be our most fruitful year ever.

SCFWB WOMEN ACTIVE FOR CHRIST STATE MEETING

Saturday, March 16, 2002
Peace FWB Church, Florence
(843) 667-6285

Speaker: Rev Todd Smith
Registration 9:00am- Services 9:30am

Theme: "For such a time as this, bow the knee" Esther 4:14



State Moderator, Rev Sherwood Lee and State WAC Moderator, Gwen Hendrix compare notes about the great progress in our State.

All committee members and State WAC Leaders are asked to be at Peace Church by 8:30 am on Saturday, March 16th for committee meetings.

As many of you may already know, it will be difficult to get a hotel room for Friday night March 15th, due to the fact that the Race in Darlington will be taking place the same weekend. **Most of the hotels in Florence are booked up;** however, we have been able to find several hotels in Lake City, SC which were not completely booked up. We encourage you to go ahead and make the necessary reservations if you will be arriving on Friday instead of Saturday morning.

Security Inn, 319 Sumter St., Lake City, SC 29560, (843-394-7666)
Days Inn, 170 S. Ron McNair Blvd., Lake City, SC 29560, (843-394-3269)
Holiday Inn, 202 Ron McNair Blvd., Lake City, SC 29560, (843-394-8400)



Rev Mike Gerald and the Riverside FWB Church are anxiously seeking land in the Conway area so they can begin building their new building. They are looking to locate on Hwy 90 east of Conway in an area that does not have any FWB Churches. Even though they do not have a building yet, they recently joined the Central Conference and are looking for God to bless their efforts.



Rev Dennis Trolly is the new Pastor of Gaffney FWB Church. He and the church are excited about the future, believing that God will use them to make a difference for Christ in the Gaffney area.

Rev Travis Carter is the Youth Director at Valley Falls FWB Church where his father, Rev David Carter is the Pastor. He was accepted as a licenced minister by the Beaver Creek Conference during their January session



Travis Carter



Williams Hill FWB Church and Pastor Doug Mathis are rejoicing in **new Play ground equipment** for the Church. The youth department raised much of the money needed and now they have the equipment needed to spend hours in fellowship and fun.

They thought at first that their main problem would be to keep the preacher from playing on it all the time. BUT when he tried to slide down the sliding board and got stuck it sort of cooled his fever!



Here are the **youth from Unity FWB Church** that read thru the entire Bible in 15 hours and 30 minutes. Contributors from the community contributed \$700 as sponsors for the readers and the Church contributed \$500 more. The Youth then used this money for a Youth Appreciation snow skiing trip.

Pastor Mikell Edge is looking for more ways that he can use to promote the youth reading and studying the Word of God as part of their activities and fund raisers.

JUNIOR YOUTH CAMP is presently scheduled for July 29- August 2, 2002 at Camp Beaver Lake in Patrick. Additional information will be given as it becomes available but mark these dates on your calendar.

STATEWIDE YOUTH RETREAT will be held April 5-7, 2002 at the Quality Hotel and Conference Center (7136 Asheville Highway, Spartanburg, SC). Youth from all over the state are urged to join this great gathering. It will include many fun filled activities as well as messages and studies to bring young people to a closer walk with the Lord. Contact B.L. Efirm at (864) 472-2863 or (864) 472-6488 for more Info.



STATE CTS FINALS will be Saturday, April 20th at First FWB Church of Greenville (Pastor Bobby Bowers). Registration begins at 8:00am. Contact State CTS Field Director Todd Parrish [(843) 393-7249] if you need additional information about this meeting or about beginning CTS Competition in your local Church.

ROLL CALL SUNDAY: EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 31, 2002. We are looking for a Roll Call Revival as we see the largest attendance in South Carolina Free Will Baptist Churches in history and many souls won to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

This year you will be reporting on

1) Your Total attendance number. {Count everyone who comes to your services that morning but count them only once; no matter how many services they attend}.

2) The Total number of first time salvation decisions.

3) Total number of first time visitors.

Additional information will be mailed to each church in March.



The Purpose of Roll Call Sunday is:

- 1) To See Souls saved and lives changed for the Glory of God
- 2) To Challenge people to invite friends, relatives, associates, and neighbors to church.
- 3) To Build a database of prospects for your Church visitation in the weeks to come
- 4) To Introduce your Church and Ministry to more people in your community, city, and county.
- 5) To Stimulate evangelism and church Growth in the local Church.
- 6) To Show your people what they can do if they really try to reach those around them.



PREACHER POUNDED! The Congregation of Sand Hill FWB Church, Coward, S C welcomed Rev Jeremy and Kim Riggs to minister at their church with a “pounding” of household and cleaning supplies. Brother Jeremy is acting as Assistant Pastor at Sand Hill while he prepares to continue his education for mission work at Columbia International University.

Pastor Sherwood Lee expressed delight at having this splendid couple to help him at this fine church. Brother Sherwood works as a Nurse at McLeod Medical Center, is the Moderator of the SCFWB State Association, and serves on the national Foreign Mission Board in addition to his duties as Pastor so he is excited about the help Brother Jeremy will provide.

Brother Jeremy and wife, Kim, have been married for two years and they are looking forward to working in this area as they prepare for God’s path for their life.

CAMP MEETING IN THE CAROLINAS MARCH 14-15, 2002

Sponsored by the Central Association of Original FWB

Special Speakers will be Rev Brooks Sykes, Rev Theron Scott, Rev Billy Poe Jones, and Rev Rick Bowling (Director of Hispanic Ministries of Free Will Baptist Home Missions).

Services: 7pm Thursday, 10am and 7pm Friday. Everyone is invited.

Bible Conference Service to HONOR DR TOM MALONE: The Tuesday Evening service of Free Will Baptist Bible College’s spring Bible conference will be dedicated to Honoring President Tom Malone, who will soon become the college’s third chancellor. The March 12th service will feature a message by Dr. Malone, and a reception in the college’s Cumberland Cafeteria after the service.

Other Bible Conference speakers will be Evangelist David Miller, Alabama Pastor Danny Williams, and representatives of the classes of 1953 and 1977.

WORTHINGTON BOOK OF LETTERS PLANNED: The Executive Office is gathering materials for a book of letters honoring Dr Melvin Worthington who retires this year after 23 years as executive secretary.

The tribute letters will be bound in a book and presented to Dr. Worthington during the National Association meeting in Memphis, July 21-25, 2002. Deadline to receive letters for inclusion in the bound volume is June 4th. Please send letters to

Worthington Tribute
c/o Jack Williams, Executive Assistant
P O Box 5002
Antioch, TN 37011-5502

CAMP MEETING AT SOUTHEASTERN FREE WILL BAPTIST COLLEGE will be April 15-17. Special speakers will include Rev Jim Maddox, Rev tim Rabon, Rev Johnny Pike, Rev William Jacobs, Rev Terry Hardison, Rev Earl Hanna, Dr Tommy Steele, and Dr David Gibbs.



The Greer FWB Church (Pastor Carroll Edwards) carried a Shoe Box Christmas to the FWB Children’s Home in December. Pastor Edwards said they went to be a blessing but ending up receiving a Blessing. They had a meal with the staff and Children and just enjoyed seeing what God is doing in the life of these Young People. (This story was inadvertently left out of the last edition of the “Informer”).



Sunday, February 10, 2002 was a special day in the life of First FWB Church of Simpsonville. Pastor Chris Jackson led in **burning the Mortgage** on their property and they are now completely debt free (Glory!). Thru the hard work and diligent effort of the members, and the blessings of the Lord, their 20 year mortgage was paid off in just 7 years. This church is located in one of the fastest



Simpsonville First FWB Church.
New Sanctuary is on the Left.

growing areas of South Carolina and it's growth potential is beyond imagination.

Pastor Jackson made a comment in his sermon before the Mortgage Burning that stresses the new Vision of the Church- "You build a building with blocks but you build a church with Baptisms!" May the Baptistery of this church never stay dry for long.



Pastor Tony Miles and the congregation of Little Star FWB Church welcomed the Central District WAC Meeting to their Church on Saturday, Feb 16th. The Brand New Sign in front of the Church invited everyone in and the warmth of the people made you want to stay awhile.



Missionary Kristi Johnson, shared about the work in Spain and gave a wonderful lesson on "Abiding in the Vine". Naturally,

there was a delicious meal that followed the Morning session prepared by the great cooks of this fine church.

The November Prayer - Praise Rally for the Central District WAC will be held at Mt Ariel FWB Church, Conway on November 16th.



2002 Conference Meetings			
Beaver Creek	April 27- 1 st Chester	July 27- 1 st Greenville	Oct 26- 1 st Greenwood
Central	April 13- Rains	July 13- Socastee	Oct 12- South Conway
Eastern	March 23- Happy Home	June 22- Olanta	Sept 21- St John Dec 14- Mill Branch
Great Commission	April 13- Great Commission		Oct 12- Greer
Palmetto	May 18- Bright Light	Aug 17- Bright Light	Nov 16- Bright Light
South Carolina	April 5- Poplar Hill	July 5 (?) - Salem	Oct 4- Sand Hill
True Life	April 20- Calvary	July 20- Faith	Oct 19- Gloryland



L-r: Linda & Jamie Tucker, Jeanette & Ike Pack, Ella & J. W. Miles. (17 year old Matthew Price was not available at Picture time).

Fellowship FWB Church, Manning is showing good progress. They had 7 new people to join the Church in September of 2001 and another Adult to join in January of 2002. Offerings are up and the Church hopes to leave mission status and become a self supporting church in 2002.

Pastor I. Bennie Turner is greatly rejoicing in the FREE Computer and printer recently given to them by Southern Mutual Insurance Company as part of the Company's general up grade of computers at their home office.



REV MIKE CREECH, Pastor of First FWB Church, Florence went to be with the Lord on Friday, February 22nd.

Brother Mike was 47 years old and had been the pastor of First FWB, Florence since 1994. He attended FWB Bible College before serving as associate pastor of Fellowship FWB Church in Flat River, Mo from 1977-1979. He also was the pastor of Thomaston, Ga FWB Church from 1979- 1983, the Smithville (Mississippi) FWB Church from 1983- 1991, and Bay Branch FWB Church, Timmonsville from 1991-1994.

Brother Mike is survived by Wife, Carla; daughters Rachel and Hanna; son, Caleb and two sisters- Bonnie Gabbard of Michigan and Carol Bechard of Kentucky.

The Funeral Service held on Monday, Feb. 25th at First FWB Church, Florence filled the sanctuary to overflowing and was more like a victory celebration as Associate Pastor, Lee Patrick, shared about the impact Brother Mike had on his own life and the life of the Church. Burial services were held on Wednesday, Feb 27th at Oak Hill Cemetery in Jasper, Ala.



Rev Lee Patrick



New Covenant Singers

MOTION FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS CONCERNING CONFERENCES THAT RESTORE SEXUALLY FALLEN MINISTERS TO PASTORAL LEADERSHIP.

After receiving information and input from the 7 Conferences that constitute the South Carolina State Association of Free Will Baptists concerning the licensing or ordination of Sexually Fallen Pastors, the Executive Committee makes the following motion based on the Moral Mandate and the Legal Liabilities of such actions:

1) The **MORAL MANDATE**: The overwhelming majority of the Conferences in the State have stated that they believe that a Sexually Fallen Pastor should not remain ordained; nor should he be re-ordained. They believe that he can be forgiven by God, restored to his relationship with God, and even be used in active service in the work of God; but not in an ordained position.

The Conferences in our state do not wish to condone such moral behavior by returning the fallen Pastor to an active leadership role. To weaken the wall of Holiness at this point would eventually lead to allowing other moral problems (such as Homosexuals) to be placed in our pulpits

2) The **LEGAL LIABILITY**: In our present legal climate, the restoration of a sexually fallen minister to the pulpit would expose the church, the conference, and the State Association to the possibility of tremendous legal liabilities.

Therefore, The Executive Committee of the State Association of Free Will Baptists moves that the State Association withdraw fellowship from any church or conference which licenses, ordains, or recognizes as Pastor a sexually fallen minister.

Withdrawing fellowship from a conference or church means that they cannot be seated at the State Association meeting; thus they will have no voting privileges nor can their ministers or delegates serve on boards of the State Association during the breach of fellowship. If they maintain this policy four months after action by the State Association, they will no longer be considered a part of the South Carolina State Association of Free Will Baptists.



Thursday Business Session



Thursday Worship Service

South Carolina State Association of
Free Will Baptists State Office
Rev Mike Jones, Executive Secretary
P O Box 13266
Florence, S C 29504