

THE



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2003

INFORMER

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

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BUS MINISTRY BRINGS IN \$50,000

Sunday, November 2nd was a great day for Pastor Jimmy Brown and the First FWB Church of Myrtle Beach. It began with the Church having a special Pastor Appreciation Day and presenting Pastor Jimmy a love gift of \$2000- Glory!



Pastor Jimmy Brown honors the Bus Kids during Home Coming Activities at First FWB Church, Myrtle Beach.

But it gets better. One of the grandmothers of some of the bus kids rode to church with them on this special Sunday. She is a very poor and humble woman. When she told

the Pastor she wanted to give a gift to the Church he didn't think anything special- until he opened the check and saw it was a cashier's check for \$50,000 (I believe that is worth another Glory!).

Seems the Grandmother had come into some money and wanted to share some of it with the only Church that had cared enough about her grandchildren to send a bus to pick them up each week The church never thought the bus ministry would pay financially but God has a way of rewarding those who go into the highways and hedges to seek lost sheep.

SCFWB STATE ASSOCIATION will meet February 26-27, 2004 with the Beaver Creek Conference at First FWB Church, Greenville (Pastor Bobby Bowers). Dr. David Gibbs, Jr. will be our special Guest. **If you have questions about legal issues or taxes that you would like for him to answer please submit them to the State Executive Office** as soon as possible so they can be forwarded to Brother Gibbs.

ANNUAL CHILDREN'S HOME DAY A GREAT SUCCESS

The first Saturday in November is always "Children's Home" Day. This year a crowd of nearly 200 people attended on a beautiful fall day.

Touring the Home and enjoying good Christian fellowship preceded a time of worship in song by the singing group, "8th Day". After thanks and recognitions by Children's Home Director, Rev. James Wilhide, the morning message was delivered by SCFWB Assistant Director, Rev. Rickey Evans. His powerful message on "Where were you when God called?" stirred hearts and produced one decision for Christ.

A delicious meal followed as everyone rejoiced in God's continued blessings on this vital ministry in our state.



"8th Day" praise the Lord in Song before the Message.



SCFWB Children's Home Board Members. Seated- Chairman, Rev. Tim Hackett. l-r: Rev. Paul Childers, Rev. I Bennie Turner, Mr Larry Hawkins, Rev Eddie Hinson, Children's Home Director, Rev. James Wilhide. (Unable to attend were Rev. Johnny Bullman and Rev. Jimmy Brown)

CHURCH NEWS

Haven't had your **Pastor Appreciation Day** yet this year??? Can you think of a better time than the Thanksgiving or Christmas season to show your Pastor how thankful you are for his ministry with a Special Day?

Little Star FWB Church, Johnsonville, celebrated Pastor Appreciation Day on Sunday, September 21st. A short time of Sunday School led into special programs designed to honor Pastor Tony Miles. The skits, songs, and activities all expressed the love and appreciation the people of the Church have for this fine Pastor. Physical and monetary gifts were also given as a way of showing the Pastor and his family how much they were appreciated.

Following the Morning Message by the SCFWB Executive Secretary everyone adjourned to the Fellowship building for a great time of food and fellowship.



HORSE BRANCH LOVES THEIR PASTOR: Sunday, September 14 was Pastor Appreciation Day at Horse Branch Free Will Baptist Church. Following the opening hymn the chairman of the Deacon Board, Robbie Robinson, presented Bro. Jacob and Mrs. Betty Creech with a generous gift from the church and informed Bro. Creech he had the day off.



The morning service featured music by the Horse Branch Men's Quartet and a message by Bro. Jonathan Kell from 1 Peter 5 entitled, "What Makes a Good Pastor?" The morning service concluded with a wonderful meal prepared by the ladies of the church.

The festivities continued during the evening service. The Junior Choir sang, and the children of the church presented Br. Creech with a wreath made from their handprints. Ashley Cannon presented a wonderful message about God's Perfect Love from 1 John 4 and 1 Corinthians 13. He challenged the church to love others as God does.

Horse Branch Free Will Baptist Church thanks God for the Creeches. They have a wonderful ministry and are known as true servants of God. Yes, Horse Branch really does love their pastor and his wife!
(Contributed by Assistant Pastor, Jonathan Kell).

Sunday, July 20th was "**Possum Sunday**" at Mt Ariel FWB Church as the Church honored Pastor Kenny Baxley. Brother Kenny is famous, when you ask him what he wants to eat, for saying, "Just possum will do" so the congregation decided to key on that theme on this special day. They prepared dishes like fried "possum" legs, "possum" bog, baked "possum" and BBQ "possum" chops. The amazing thing was that everything was planned and carried out without Preacher Kenny's knowledge.



Rev and Mrs. Kenny Baxley

Along with the feast, Brother Kenny was treated to a skit and a special song by the church Youth Group along with a possum cake and other gifts. The members of Mt Ariel said they are fortunate to have Brother Kenny and wife, Cherene and look for God to continue to bless. (Note- No actual real or healthy possum was harmed for this dinner. But no one was saying anything about road kill!!!).



Pastor Chris Fannin (Lebanon FWB Church) enjoyed an unusual Pastor Appreciation night. It was scheduled for a Wednesday Night in order to surprise him and included testimonies, Ice Cream, Hot Dogs, and a special offering of over \$1000- That is worth a Glory! The church continues to grow and prosper under his ministry (recently they baptized a dozen!- Glory!) and the people of the Church really appreciate his energy and effort.



Pastor Todd Black is pleased to share that over 20 souls have been saved (Glory!) and 24 new members have joined Converse FWB Church since January. The Church had a special Pastor Appreciation time of food and fellowship on Sunday, October 12th that included a special “Bonus Check” for the Pastor and wife, Tina. This was just their way of showing how much they appreciate the hard work that Pastor Todd puts in as he guides this church to greater growth and potential for the Lord.

Rev. Wayland Owens celebrated his 20th Anniversary at First FWB Church of Kingstree on Sunday, September 14th. The first two rows of the sanctuary were packed with family members and the services were highlighted by Testimonies and special music from various members. The Church presented Pastor Wayland and wife, Susie, two double rocking chairs to use in spoiling (I mean rocking) their new grandchildren. SCFWB Executive Secretary, Mike Jones, shared scripture and a prayer for the next 20 years of service before a very moving rendition of “Thank God for the Preacher” sung by member, Phillip Disher. As brother Phillip sang, slides of brother Wayland’s life and ministry were flashed on a screen at the front of the church.



Rev Larry McAlister

Pastor, and good friend, Larry McAlister then preached a powerful morning message that drew several people to the altar before everyone adjourned to the fellowship building for a glad time of food and fellowship.



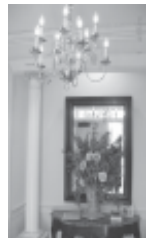
Jim Snipes presents Pastor and Mrs. Wayland Owens a double rocker in appreciation of their ministry- and to help with the Grandkids!



Beulah FWB Church celebrated Home Coming on Sunday, October 12th with an unusual person. Rev. Chris Truett, son of Rev. Sam Truett and the only boy to be born in the parsonage at Beulah FWB Church!, brought the morning message to a packed house of nearly 250 people. The Church then presented Brother Sam’s widow, Mrs. Anne Truett, a gift of \$1100- Glory! What an extremely thoughtful gift.



Beulah was also celebrating their recent remodeling projects. The pews were shortened to give more room in the aisles and along the side of the church and were then re-covered. New Lighting was installed, a completely new vestibule was installed and many other areas of the Church were reworked. What a tremendous blessing to see the House of God honored in this way. Rev Elro Driggers is the pastor of this budding bunch at Beulah.



Entrance

Pastor John Cody and the **Mt Carmel FWB Church** are rejoicing in God’s Goodness. Missionary Mirial Gainer visited this Church while she was home and the church caught a vision of helping meet her needs in Japan. In addition to a generous gift they collected



Rev John Cody

many of the items she said she could not get in Japan and mailed them to her. God honored their vision for mission in a marvelous way. Several people from a local church visited them one day and liked what they saw. What Mt Carmel did not know was that the pastor of this church (A Light for Jesus Holiness Mission) had passed away and the church was going to disband so they were looking for somewhere to distribute their funds. Mt. Carmel impressed them so much until they gave them nearly \$15,000 (Is there a Glory! anywhere in the house!!). Mt. Carmel then turned



around and gave a tithe of this to help feed the poor in their community. They acted on faith, God rewarded their efforts and then allowed them to help someone else. That is missions in action!!

Helping Ship Mirial Gainer back to Japan with “Sparks into Flames” (Reported by Mrs. Patsy Hyman)

The WAC of Immanuel FWB Church, Santee, invited the WAC of Liberty FWB Church of Manning and the WAC of Low Country FWB Church, North Charleston to a study course on Saturday, August 9th taught by Missionary to Japan, Mirial Gainer entitled “Sparks into Flames”. The course was a time of understanding how and why the Women’s Auxiliary was begun. The study course was followed by a time of fellowship and food.



Although each of these auxiliaries support Mirial Gainer with a regular monthly offering, they wanted to do more when they found that her shipping expenses would be a big burden. They received a special offering and \$425 was given. As one of our Preachers would say, “Can I hear a Glory anywhere out there?”

“To God be the Glory” Submitted by Pastor Steve McCutcheon



Just a few words to praise the Lord for the work He is doing at **Cypress Fork FWB Church**. In November of 2002 my wife, Sharon, and I accepted the call as Pastor of Cypress Fork. This was my first church as Pastor and we immediately found that being a Pastor is one of the great challenges of life.

After a short time at the church we realized the true meaning of Ephesians 3:20 “Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us”.

Things that challenge and overwhelm us God simply winks at! Jesus said in Matt 11:30 that “My yoke is easy and my burden is light”. With God leading our work at Cypress Fork we have been able to see much accomplished.



Since last November seven souls have been saved (Glory!) and five have rededicated their life to the Lord. Seventeen have joined the church and we are having to tear down fellowship are walls in order to get more room. We are also presently building two more Sunday School rooms and have recently installed a new church steeple and new directional signs so visitors will be able to locate us more easily.

We have a congregation with a mind to work and seem to be willing to put their hands to the task of building a work for the Lord. We are excited about what God is doing and look forward to the future. Most importantly of all we thank God for making all of this possible- “To God be the Glory” Pastor Steve McCutcheon.

[The following article was submitted by Mrs. Annette Cox, wife of Pastor Marty Cox.]



The Good News Club- a ministry of Mt Trolly FWB Church: We have a total of 92 students in the Good News Club. We started on October 2, 2003 and in one month 23 students have made a decision for the Lord Jesus Christ. As you would say “Glory”. God is doing a great work through our church through the Good News Club at Midland Elementary School. We are able to Pray in school, and we teach them about Jesus and the Scriptures, as well as give them a weekly memory verse. The students are excited about learning their verses each week. It is amazing. God is still working in mighty ways. God is so Good. “Glory, Glory!!” In Christ’s Service, Mrs. Annette Cox



Pastor Joe Cagle and Little Bethel FWB Church, Johnsonville are greatly rejoicing at the privilege of baptizing 15 people on Sunday, September 14th- Is there a Glory! anywhere in the house? What a great blessing from the Lord.





The Newly reworked Sanctuary

The Spirit of the Lord almost crackled in the air as the congregation of First **Free Will Baptist Church of Myrtle Beach** came together for their annual Home Coming services. What made this day so special was that people entered the church to see a “New” Sanctuary with new carpet and pews that had been installed during the previous week.



Pastor Jimmy Brown with Christopher Stone

Pastor Jimmy Brown began the service with an altar dedication prayer to dedicate the sanctuary afresh to God and His work. This was followed by special music from the Choir and individuals. Recognition was given to the many men in the Church who had worked long hard hours to complete the Sanctuary remodeling in time for this special Sunday.

When SCFWB Executive Secretary, Mike Jones, came up to dedicate the pews the Pastor was able to announce that the new pews and carpet were completely paid for and the church could celebrate the victory of entering this new phase of the Church life completely debt free (Glory!).

After the dedication of the pews, the pledge of allegiance was led by Christopher Stone, one of the active members of the youth group at the church. This Boy Scout recently received his God and Country badge- one of the least received badges in the Boy Scouts because it is very difficult to fulfill all the requirements.

The Morning Message by Pastor Jimmy Brown was followed by a delicious fellowship meal.

Thanks to Mrs. Todd Parrish for the photos- The Executive Secretary’s schedule had to be changed due to a funeral and he could not be as this important event.



A sacred time as a Minster is set apart for God’s Work.

Rev. Bill Dority was ordained into the Gospel Ministry on Sunday, October 12th, 2003 at Temple FWB Church, Darlington. Brother Bill, a long time member of Temple FWB Church is presently the Pastor of St. John FWB Church, Patrick. Temple Church was filled with well wishers as both Churches came together with the family and friends of Brother Bill for this special occasion. Thank the Lord for another soldier in the army of the Lord. May God use him in mighty ways in the years to come.



Rev. Bill Dority, his family, and the ordaining counsel of the S. C. Conference



Freedom FWB Church, Ladson had a special singing on Saturday, October 18th to celebrate the burning of the mortgage on their Sanctuary. Former Pastor Johnny Evans joins with the board in this wonderful event.



The SCFWB **State Home Mission Board** recently met at Columbia FWB Church in order to review the progress of our two missionaries- Rev Todd Smith, Aiken, and Rev. Gerardo Rodriguez, Hispanic Missionary as well as plan for God’s future Blessing. Rev Earl Hendrix is Chairman.

When **Happy Home FWB Church**, Andrews, received a postcard from the SCFWB State Office suggesting a VBS project for the BRAZIL WESTSIDE PROJECT (Money to buy land for a new church on the West side of Barbacena) they decided to adopt this as a church project. Missionary David Aycock needed to purchase 4 lots at \$6,000 so the church was challenged to raise at least 1/10th of one of the lots (\$600). They decided to do that by getting people to bring “J-Dollars” and pin them on a big “J” at the Church (A “J” dollar is one that has a “J” in the serial number- “J” for Jesus).



It was a blessed witnessing experience for the community as people in banks and stores would see the kids and parents looking on every dollar for that “J”. Soon, however, all the “J” dollars in the area were claimed so the dollars were expanded to include any of the letters in “Jesus”. Then the kids started thinking of every dollar with a Bible meaning like “G” for God and “L” for Lord, etc.

When Missionary David Aycock was in South Carolina for a Mission Conference the Children of the Church proudly presented him a Check for \$600 to help buy the land to build a new Church.



SCFWB Home Missionary to Aiken, Rev. Todd Smith is happy to report a very Success Revival- We just concluded our revival last night with Dr. Randy Sawyer. He was supposed to come in Sunday afternoon to be with us starting Sunday night but was not able to make it until Monday, but God began working on Sunday night and all the way through the revival with 5 salvation decisions during Revival.

Sunday night one of the men of the church came down during the invitation and got saved. After church was over, another man came up to me and said, “I want to know before I leave that I am saved.” Pastor Todd and a couple of our other FAITH team leaders had the privilege of taking he and his wife in a prayer room and leading them to trust Christ as Savior.

Monday night, the 18 year old daughter of this couple was won to the Lord in the fellowship hall after service was over. Then they brought their other teenage daughter (17), to revival on Tuesday night. During the invitation, she came down and got saved. Four out of one family came to know Christ. What a great joy to make a difference for Christ in our town.

Mt Ariel FWB Church, Conway and Pastor Kenny Baxley spearheaded a fund raising benefit dinner to assist **Rev. Roger Johnson** with expenses due to his sickness on Friday October 17th. A number of other churches from the Central Conference and other denominations also helped with this worthwhile project that cleared nearly \$5300 for the Roger Johnson Fund. What a great help during this time of need.

Just Pondering: Who made the law that Church must begin on the hour? Why does a Sunday School teacher who does not have a great deal of time to prepare a lesson get 50 minutes to teach a lesson while a Preacher who has prepared a sermon all week only gets 20 minutes? Why do people always say, “We know we have been long in our preliminaries today so preach as long as you want, no one will mind.” and then everyone starts wiggling and squirming as soon as it gets noon?

Is there a better way? What if Sunday School was held from 10:00am until 10:45am (If handled correctly this would still give the teacher 40 minutes of teaching time!). Then you could begin the worship service at 10:45am and go until Noon. This would give 15 minutes for Congregational preliminaries, 15 minutes for special music, and 45 minutes for the preaching of God’s Word.

Like you, I believe that any schedule should be ignored when the Holy Spirit is moving. I am not talking about scheduling the Holy Spirit out; I am simply trying to schedule the preaching of the Word of God in.

“Redeeming the time...”
Ephesians 5:16

Time is passing quickly.

BENJAMIN RANDALL DAY OFFERING
NOVEMBER 23, 2003

Please help us meet the challenge of reaching North America and territories with the gospel through:

- CHURCH PLANTING
- CHURCH EXTENSION
- LOAN FUND
- EVANGELISM AND CHURCH GROWTH
- CHAPLAINCY MINISTRY
- CROSS-CULTURAL MINISTRY

SEND GIFTS TO:
Free Will Baptist Home Missions Department
P.O. Box 5002
Antioch, TN 37011-5002

It is reported that Benjamin Randall purchased this watch in 1769 and carried it until his death in 1808. He preached the gospel as if time would soon end. He wanted to reach as many souls for the Lord as possible.

The October meeting of the Beaver Creek Conference turned out to be a very exciting day for Hispanic Missionary Gerardo Rodriguez. During the Conference he was presented the keys to a 1997 station wagon for the use of the mission given to him by an anonymous donor. This will be a big help to his ministry and is greatly appreciated.



Then he preached (with the help of interpretation by National Hispanic Director, Rev Rick Bowling) a tremendous message about getting down into the midst of the bones like Ezekiel if you expect God to accomplish anything great.

Finally, he had a special service at the Church honoring one of the young ladies in the church with a special celebration.

Brother Gerardo is also excited about beginning a Bible Study at Beulah FWB Church (Pastor Elro Driggers) with a group of Hispanics from the Pamplico area on Saturday, November 1st. Many of the people he has contacted have never been to church before and this is a wonderful opportunity to share the gospel with them.



Rev. Gerardo begins to gather people for the Pamplico area Hispanic Bible Study. 36 People attended the First session!!!

The Gwen Hendrix Hispanic Bible Institute is due to open on Saturday, January 4th, 2004. Located in Inman, SC, this Institute will provide the training necessary to send an army of Hispanic evangelist and pastors across our nation to help reach the ever growing Hispanic population in the United States. The First FWB Church of Inman got the Institute off to a good start when they purchased 4 houses across the street from the Church and donated the use of these houses as dorms for the Hispanic Students to use while they are attending the Institute (Way to go, Brother Earl!). Right now money to purchase the furnishing for these apartments is desperately needed.

[Some Information from Section 20 of the Law codes of the State of South Carolina you might find interesting]

B) No man shall marry his mother, grandmother, daughter, granddaughter, stepmother, sister, grandfather's wife, son's wife, grandson's wife, wife's mother, wife's grandmother, wife's daughter, wife's granddaughter, brother's daughter, sister's daughter, father's sister, mother's sister, or **another man**.

(C) No woman shall marry her father, grandfather, son, grandson, stepfather, brother, grandmother's husband, daughter's husband, granddaughter's husband, husband's father, husband's grandfather, husband's son, husband's grandson, brother's son, sister's son, father's brother, mother's brother, or **another woman**.

SECTION 20-1-15. Prohibition of same sex marriage.

A marriage between persons of the same sex is void ab initio and against the public policy of this State.

A Message from Mrs. Faye Hanna, (President South Carolina Women Active for Christ):

Ladies, We are trying to update our mailing list for the SC WAC. If you are the contact person for your group, PLEASE contact Teresa Smith RIGHT AWAY with your correct address and e-mail address. If you do not have access to e-mail, please ask someone in your group to be responsible for sharing news that may come by e-mail. You may reach Teresa 3 ways: By mail: 308 Greenwich Dr., Aiken, SC 29803; By phone: 803-644-3771; or by e-mail: teresasmithsc@juno.com.

If you have any suggestions for the upcoming year for the SC WAC, please contact me at 843-386-3783 or mlhanna@ftc-i.net. Thanks

Rev. Tim Larrimore is the new Beaver Creek Sunday School Campaign Director. In addition to his duties as Pastor of Liberty FWB Church of Lancaster he is currently working on ways to get all of the Sunday Schools in the Beaver Creek Conference to grow and reach souls for the Lord.



Dean Jones, head of the Youth Activities at the National Associational Meeting wants to know- **WHAT ARE THE TOP 5 YOUTH MINISTRY CHURCHES IN SOUTH CAROLINA?** If you would like to nominate your church then send the information about your program to SCFWB, P O Box 13266, Florence, SC 29504 or better email it to Mike@SCFWB.com

2004 EXECUTIVE SECRETARY SCHEDULE:

It has been a GREAT JOY to be able to pay an annual visit to each of the 124 Churches that are members of the South Carolina State Association of Free Will Baptists during the first four years I have been in office. God is doing great things among South Carolina Free Will Baptists and it has been very encouraging to get to share in those blessings from week to week.

More and more it has become obvious that there is a need to be available for Pastors during times of sickness and emergencies. Also, Pastors tend to have a very busy schedule and forget to call the SCFWB State Office about special events until the week of the event- when, almost always, the Executive Secretary and the Assistant Director had already booked a service for that Sunday so neither could attend the special event.



Because of these factors, the Executive Secretary and the Assistant Director plans to simply be available during 2004 instead of trying to arrange a service in every church. We still WANT to be in every Church but it will be up to Pastors to invite them at a time that will best suit the Pastor's schedule or need.

This will also allow Executive Secretary, Mike Jones, and Assistant Director, Rickey Evans to visit other Free Will Baptists groups in our state and inform them about the great opportunities for fellowship and ministry that can be available if they become a member of our group. SCFWB are the best, and we want everyone to know that!

SCFWB 2004 SCHEDULE:

- (We try to attend as many Minister's Meetings as possible)
- Conway Area FWB Ministers meet- First Tuesday monthly.
- Beaver Creek Conference FWB Ministers meet on the Second Tuesday of each month.
- Florence-Darlington area FWB Ministers meet on the Second Tuesday of each month.
- Lake City area FWB Ministers meet Third Tuesday monthly.
- Jan 10: MJ- Dedication of new Gwen Hendrix Hispanic Bible Institute, Inman, SC
- RE- Central Conference Meeting at Bethel FWB Church, Florence
- Jan 12-16: MJ- FWB Foundation Financial Training course in St. Petersburg, Florida
- Jan 17: RE- True Life Conference Meeting at Calvary FWB Church, Lancaster
- Jan 22-23: MJ,RE- S C Conference Annual Meeting at Grace FWB Church, Lake City
- Jan 29: MJ- Seniors Ministry at Gilead FWB Church, Lake City
- Jan 31: MJ,RE- BC Annual Conference at First FWB Church, Simpsonville
- Feb 1: MJ- Speak at Landmark FWB Church, Anderson, SC
- Feb 21: MJ, RE- Eastern Conference Meeting at Hillside FWB Church, Florence, SC
- **Feb 25-27: MJ,RE- State Association Meeting**
- Feb 28: MJ- Palmetto Conference Meeting at Peace FWB Church, Spartanburg
- March 11-12: MJ, RE-Carolina Camp Meeting at Mullins Marion FWB Church. (Sponsored by Central Conference)
- Mar 16-17: MJ,RE- Randall House Meeting in Nashville
- Mar 20: MJ,RE- State WAC Meeting
- (Beginning in April all the Conferences Recycle each 3 months)
- July 17-24: MJ,RE- **National Association- Kansas City, MO**

Attention Church Treasurers- **THANK YOU** for all the hard work you do for the Lord and for the Church. I greatly appreciate your extra effort in handling the Lord's finances and pray the Lord will bless you for your sacrifice.

Because 2003 will end on a Thursday I will close out the books on 2003 when I make my deposit on Monday, January 5, 2004. This should give you ample time to conclude your year and still get any money that you want included in the 2003 total to the State Office. Again, Thanks for all you do.



Rev Mike Jones, Executive Secretary S. C.
State Association of Free Will Baptists

2003 STATE OFFICERS

Moderator	Sherwood Lee (SC)
Assistant Moderator	Buddy Seay (CA)
Clerk	Todd Smith(BC)
Assistant Clerk	Marty Cox (CA)
Treasurer	Joe McKnight (SC)
Assistant Treasurer	Wayne Snipes (EC)
Member at Large (Lower State)	Doug Mathis (EC)
Member at Large (Upper State)	James Sanders (BC)

