



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

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**STATE WAC**

March 20, 2004  
 Liberty FWB Church  
 Lancaster, SC  
 [details-Page 8]

**ROLL CALL SUNDAY  
 EASTER SUNDAY**

April 11, 2004  
 We are praying for 15,000 people to attend Free Will Baptist Churches in South Carolina on this Sunday with multitudes accepting Christ as Savior.  
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**STATE TEEN RETREAT**

April 16-17, 2004  
 Raddison Hotel  
 Spartanburg, SC  
 [details-Page 8]

**State WAC  
 LADIES RETREAT**

August 27-28, 2004  
 Lookup Lodge  
 [details at the State WAC]

## SNOW STATE

In all started out well. The weather for the Wednesday Morning session of the General Board meeting was seasonable for late February in Greenville, SC and a good representation from across the state came to the General Board meeting. Pastor Bobby Bowers and the people of First FWB Church of Greenville had done a great job in preparing for the State Meeting and things went so well until the reports to the General Board from the various State Ministries were completed by 11:45am.

Most people then drove the 35 miles over to Parkway FWB Church, Spartanburg where Pastor Mitch Edge along with Pastor Todd Black of Converse FWB Church had prepared a free sandwich buffet meal (Actually Mrs. Lynda Hopkins, Mrs. Nancy Brown, and Miss Ashley Edge did the work and the preachers were "overseers"! ). The purpose of the luncheon was to share the ministry of the Gwen Hendrix Hispanic Bible Institute.

NAFWB Hispanic Director, Rev. Rick Bowlings shared the burden and need of the Institute before the first three students shared testimonies and songs. Upon graduation, one of these students will go to Mexico to assist his father in a new work there. Another will move to California to begin a Hispanic Church there. The Third will move to Junction City, Tn to assist Pastor Shane Wilson in that Hispanic Ministry. We also received the good news that one of the teachers at the Institute would soon be moving in West Virginia in order to begin a Hispanic work in that state.

Everyone was able to get back to their Motel rooms in time to "Meditate" for a few minutes before departing for many speaking engagements in the Spartanburg area or attending the services of the First FWB Church of Greenville where SCFWB Children's Home Director, Rev. James Wilhide, preached a powerful message about "Running the Race for God." Even when we arrived back at the motel the weather was good and things seemed normal.



During the Night, however, a strong snow producing front came into the area and by Thursday Morning the weather was deteriorating rapidly. The decision was made to go ahead with the Thursday Session and deal with the weather situation on an hour by hour basis. Reports were given as quickly as possible and all State Ministries and several National Ministries



**2004 STATE OFFICERS**

- Moderator ..... Sherwood Lee (SC)
- Assistant Moderator ..... Buddy Seay (CA)
- Clerk ..... Todd Smith (BC)
- Assistant Clerk ..... Carroll Bazen (SC)
- Treasurer ..... Marty Cox (CA)
- Assistant Treasurer ..... Mitch Edge (BC)
- Member at Large (Lower State) ..... Doug Mathis (EC)
- Member at Large (Upper State) ..... James Sanders (BC)

were able to give their report before breaking for the preaching service at 11:00am.



As soon as the worship service began you knew something special was taking place. Conscience that a Thursday Night service was becoming increasingly doubtful the "Thursday Night Offering" to help the ministry of Dr. David Gibbs was received on Thursday Morning. Over \$1,500 was received for the Christian Law Association Ministry with the Executive Committee deciding to round that off to \$2,000. The Special Music was provided by "Heritage", a trio of FWB Ministers (Rev. Todd Parrish, Rev. Jonathan Kell, and Rev. Bruce Kimbrell) and it really stirred the hearts of the assembled delegates. Then Dr. David Gibbs came to the pulpit and brought a message that had people laughing and

weeping; and ultimately filling the altar with their prayers of repentance. Very few people who attended that service left the same.

The Greenville First FWB Church had the meal already prepared and on the table so delegates simply had to find a place and set down and eat. This allowed us to finish lunch in 45 minutes and go right back into session. Dr. Gibbs then spent an hour and a half answering questions about the church and legal matters that make everyone aware of numerous needs that needed to be dealt with Free Will Baptists from across our state. Everything was completed in one day because everyone worked together to handle an unusual situation in the best way possible- What a wonderful joy to be part of such wonderful people of God.

See Pastor Ernest Barnes' thoughts on the State Meeting on page 6

Satan, however, was not idle during such a manifestation of the power of God. The recording equipment of the First FWB Church of Greenville worked well on Wednesday night but during Thursday's session it would not work in spite of continued efforts by the sound technician. This means the tapes of Dr. Gibbs messages and the Question and Answer seminar are not available as we had hoped. The State Office is working on securing the messages from other sources. You will be notified if they become available.

#### **THE BUSINESS ITEMS DEALT WITH DURING THE 2004 STATE ASSOCIATION:**

- Jody Wynn replaced Larry McAlister on the Finance Committee
- Todd Parrish replaced himself on the Youth Camp board.
- Mitch Edge replaced Tim Hackett on the State Home Mission Board
- Jimmy Brown [Central Conference] replaced himself on the Home for Children Board
- Larry Collins [Palmetto Conference] replaced Johnny Bullman on the Home for Children Board
- Larry McAlister was elected to complete the unfulfilled term of B.L. Effird on the Youth Camp Board.
- Without dissenting vote, the constitution was amended to change the State Youth Camp Board to the South Carolina Free Will Baptist Youth Ministries Board. (A no dissenting vote was required because a constitutional change is supposed to lay on the table over night and we knew we would not have a session Friday).
- The following recommendation by the SCFWB Executive Committee was presented at the General Board meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 25th so it is not included in the Digest of Reports received by Ministers in the state: "In response to the information and concerns about Christian Education shared by Rev. Joe Cagle, the Executive Committee recommends that SCFWB Churches support Christian Education at all age levels. We also encourage Churches to consider including a Free Will Baptist Christian School in their monthly support realizing that any money designated to a specific Free Will Baptist Christian School will be sent to that school by the SCFWB State Office."

Four **RESOLUTIONS** were presented and approved

- 1) We continued our opposition to Gay Marriages and asked the State Clerk to write the President and our Congressmen telling them of our opposition.
- 2) The State Executive Secretary is to look into the possibility of a State Ministers retreat
- 3) The State expressed Thanks to Dr. David Gibbs, Jr. for his help with our State Meeting
- 4) A well deserved rising vote of thanks was given to the host church (First FWB, Greenville) and to the Beaver Creek Conference for their efforts in hosting the State Meeting.

The 63rd Annual Session of the South Carolina State Association of Original Free Will Baptists, Inc. will be Feb. 24-25, 2005 hosted by the Central Conference.

**HIGHLIGHTS from the Question and Answer time by Dr. Gibbs.** (Please realize that these were taken “on the fly” and should not be used as legal opinions without getting ALL the facts about an issue).



Dr Gibbs answers legal questions during the Thursday afternoon seminar

1) Consent Forms are absolutely necessary for church activities. Without them you are totally exposed in the event of an accident or abuse. Fill them out; file them away.

2) The Church Nursery should be one of the most critical areas of oversight in the church:

A) ALL Nursery Workers need to go thru a screening process that includes a background check and is repeated at least every two years.

B) There should be at least one worker for every 6-8 children in the Nursery (More than this opens you up to lack of proper supervision if anything happens).

C) A DOCUMENTED training program should be in place for all Nursery workers.

D) Nursery workers list should be kept on file so you can tell exactly who was in the Nursery on a specific date- In court it would go something like this: The attorney would ask you if you received an offering each week. He would then ask if you kept records of the money received by the Church so that you could tell him what your offering was 4 months previously. His question then becomes, "If you can tell me how much money you collected four months ago but you cannot tell me who was in your Nursery four months ago, does that not mean that you value money more than you value children?"

3) Churches MUST issue W-2 forms to their Pastor and other employees each year. According to the B.J. Worth Income tax guide, Churches who fail to prepare W-2's for their employees are subject to many penalties. This may also open the door for the IRS to look into other areas of the Church finances.

4) Any money given to a minister, singers, or others who come to your church and perform a “service” (such as preaching or singing) is taxable (to the person receiving it) if it is given by the Church. It can be called a "Love Offering" or a "Personal Gift" or anything else but if it goes from the Church to a person it is taxable and the person must pay taxes and social security on this income. It is not taxable if it goes from one nonprofit organization to another nonprofit organization (For instance, from a Church to the SCFWB State Office) or if it is used in a specific guideline Benevolent program. (Individuals can give gifts to other individuals that are tax free but as soon as the money enters the Church Offering plate or comes under the control of the Church it becomes part of the nonprofit organization and the rules about being taxable apply)



5) In order for you to refuse to allow a homosexual couple to join your young married class at Church you must have your belief clearly stated in your constitution and bylaws. The Church constitution and bylaws should be reviews by the Pastor and Deacon Board each year to make sure it contains up to date information.

6) In almost all cases a judge will allow "inactive Church Members" to vote if they still exist on a church roll. A Church needs an automatic process that removes people who do not attend church for a certain period of time from the Church roll. (This does not mean it removes them from our prayer list or from the list of people we are attempting to get to make a firm decision for Christ).

7) It is important that we learn, and follow, the laws of the land as long as they do not violate the laws of the Lord. It is one thing to be in jail for preaching Christ- another thing all together to be in jail for failure to pay taxes!



**Rev. Kenny Baxley**, pastor of Mt. Ariel FWB Church, Aynor, went to be with the Lord on Tuesday, Feb 3rd at a result of an automobile accident on his way to the monthly Conway area FWB Minister's Fellowship. Hundreds of people turned out to honor his memory at the visitation and funeral services held at New Prospect FWB Church.



The first four rows are Honorary Pall Bear Ministers.



Rev. Phil Tipton, Rev. Roger Johnson, and Rev. Joe Cagle honored his memory with thrilling messages about God's care and the influence of Brother Kenny's Character. A huge number of ministers honored Brother Kenny by attending the Funeral service and acting as honorary pall bearers.

Previous to his work at Mt. Ariel FWB Church Brother Kenny had been a pastor in North Carolina and Georgia. His wife, Cherene, and son, Jason, thank everyone for their kindness and help during this tragic time.

### NEW PASTORS:

Freedom, Ladson- Rev. Jimmy Miller (No Picture available)



Rev. Ron Ogle Happy Home FWB Church, Andrews-



Rev. Paul Lambert South Conway FWB Church



Rev. Russell McCoy North Spartanburg FWB Church



Rev. Jamie Montgomery Hillside FWB, Florence

### Rev. Johnnie Bullman celebrates 77th birthday (by Rev. Rickey Evans, SCFWB Assistant Director)



Sunday, February First was a wonderful day at Peace FWB Church, Spartanburg as we celebrated Rev. Johnnie Bullman's 77th birthday and his many years as a faithful preacher of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Brother Johnnie started the worship service of by singing "When I make my Last Move". During the day's services Brother Johnnie received cards and letters from Pastors and State Leaders in several states, thanking his for his sacrificial service and his concern for those lost in sin. He also received \$1250.00 in gifts "Praise the Lord". Pastor Chuck Thornton then brought the morning message before we

adjourned to the fellowship building for a time of fellowship and food.

Brother Johnnie was born in Spartanburg county on Jan 30, 1927 and lived in a home with no spiritual interest. He enlisted in the Navy at the beginning of the Second World War at the age of 15. In 1945 he married Doris R. Downey and they had 4 children. He lived a very reckless life and even spent time in prison before he surrendered his life to the Lord. Soon afterwards he was called to preach and attended the Beaver Creek Bible Institute and the Piedmont Bible Institute. In 1963, he organized the Hearon Circle FWB Church which was soon overcrowded and had to buy additional buildings. In 1975 he organized Peace FWB Church, where he now serves as Senior Pastor. In addition to his pastoral duties he has evangelized for 35 years, preaching 25-40 revivals each year with many souls being won to the Lord.





## CHURCHES ON THE GROW:



1) **Foothills FWB Church** (Spartanburg) held their dedication service as a new church on Sunday, Feb 15, 2004. A rainy cold day did not hinder people from turning out in large numbers for the beginning of this new work in the Spartanburg area. This new church is presently meeting in a rented building as they actively seek land so they can begin a building program. They have a good mix of age groups and are already able to do most of the activities of an established church. Pastor



Mike Edge is the leader of this new flock.



Assistant Pastor Bruce Kimbrell and Pastor Todd Parrish, along with their wives, break ground

2) **Temple FWB Church** (Darlington) held their groundbreaking service on Sunday, Feb 22, 2004. Growth had led to a crowded sanctuary. Thoughts of building a new larger church at their present location were hemmed in by the small size of their present property. God opened the door for 30 acres of land right down from the Church a couple of years ago and by faith they purchased the property. Now, much sooner than anticipated, God's financial blessings and continued growth had led to breaking ground for a new Sanctuary.



Artist View of New Building

A very large crowd gathered on this Sunday afternoon to celebrate the beginning of this phase of the new work for God. Charter members were recognized, many members and leaders of the Church were allowed to "Break Ground", and a joyous time of celebration followed in the present fellowship building. With great anticipation we look forward to the day we can report on this congregation moving into their new building.

The Church purchased 30 acres of land a little over a year ago so they could look to building in the future. Sustained growth has produced a need right now for more room right now so ground was broken and a new church in a prime location will soon be built.



3) **Northgate FWB Church** (Greer) - When it first came into view I had to pull off the road and just rejoice. I had visited this congregation in their rented store front building each year since their beginning and I had seen them grow from a few families into this magnificent facility and all I could do was shout, "Glory!"



Store Front Beginning

Northgate FWB Church began as a burden in the heart of Rev. Chad West for this growing area nearly 4 years ago. He shared his burden with his Pastor, Rev. Earl Hendrix, and it was agreed that the First



FWB Church of Inman would help to "mother" this new work with advice, available help, and financial support.

Now the dreams had changed into days and nights of intense work and a new church was dedicated on Saturday, March 6th. Special songs and a moving slide presentation showing the church from its beginning until the present was followed by a special tribute in song to the Cross; since the preaching of the cross was the mission of the Church. Pastor Earl Hendrix of First FWB Church, Inman then brought the dedication message from Matt. 16:13-19 about founding a church on Faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of God. A dedication prayer was followed by dedication vows from the congregation before dismissal to a time of fellowship and exploring the new facilities.



Pastor Chad West

Located on busy Highway 358 in the growing community of Lyman (about midway between Spartanburg and Greenville) this church is poised to do a great work for God.



## Stream Line State Convention

(submitted by Rev. Ernest Barnes, Pastor Midlands FWB Church)

Thursday morning, February 25, 2004, I crawled out of bed at five o'clock am. I had heard sleet peppering upon the window awning all night so I turned on the television and listened to the weather reports. All reports agreed that it would be a cold day with possible dusting of snow in my home town of Columbia, South Carolina. There would be snow in the upstate with 2-3 inches of accumulation during the day and 4-6 inches for the night.



I packed my travel bag and suit bag. I was preparing for an over night stay in Greenville, South Carolina to attend the South Carolina state Association of Free Will Baptist. I reasoned that there would be coffee and donuts available during registration. So I did not bother to eat anything.

By seven o'clock rain was pouring down, the wind blowing steady, and temperature at 34 degrees. My ride arrived and we loaded my bags and were on the road for the hour and half drive to Greenville. However, it took two and a half hours and the convention was already in session. No coffee and donuts for my empty stomach.

By 9:00pm Thursday night I was unloading my bags back at my house. The day was spent and the State Association was over and done in one day. In one day, reports were made and adopted, budgets approved, a seminar raising legal questions for churches was given, and worship that convicted, challenged, and coerced many to fill the altar had taken place. During the day we also ate a meal (How thankful my stomach!) and fellowshiped with brethren from around the state.

How did this all happen?

1. God sent extreme circumstances to prove to us we can budget time wisely. For many years we have taken much time scrutinizing budgets, analyzing reports, and critiquing state ministries. We have sometimes had long debates about each motion to adopt a budget. Do you remember when we became experts at amending the amendment? What about the time the nominating committee spent several hours to gather nominees and then waited while a new list was nominated from the floor; before the original nominating committee list was voted in! Is that why we remember fighting sleep through many of the afternoon reports of state ministries?

2. God sent a servant to tell us how close we really are to legal disaster. God knew we needed to know the truth so that we could rush back home to begin reorganizing before landing in prison.

In my opinion, the stream line state convention was not bad at all. Next year, if I am not in the presence of the Lord or in prison, I plan to see you at the state convention. I'm glad nothing kept me away this time, not even the snow storm of the century.



The Youth Choir from Rev. Gerardo Rodriguez's Hispanic church share their talents with the Beaver Creek Conference



Landmark FWB Adult Sunday School Teacher, Johnny Jacobs, presents SCFWB Executive Secretary, Mike Jones with a special Gift to buy bikes in India



Pastor Danny Keen of Landmark FWB Church of Anderson presents the SCFWB State Office a special gift to help with its ministry.

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE—Free Will Baptist Bible College's SUMMER CAMP '04 will be held on campus June 27-July 2, 2004.

Campers may choose from four camp choices:

- Leadership Camp—for those who know where they are going.
- Music Camp—for people who want to give their music talent back to God.
- Drama Camp—for those who know the power of the Gospel on stage.
- Basketball Camp (for guys and girls)—for those who exercise for the glory of God.

The cost is just \$195 for a week of outstanding fun and instruction.

Send your registration or request a free brochure:

Summer Camp '04  
 Free Will Baptist Bible College  
 3606 West End Avenue  
 Nashville, Tennessee 37205  
 Phone: 615-844-5000  
 Email: tommys@fwbbc.edu

Housing Reservations for the 2004 Free Will Baptist Convention can be made beginning 8:00 a.m. CST, April 1, 2004. Hotels will not accept reservations in our housing block until that time. The April issue of Contact will contain convention housing information and the information will be available on the convention website ([www.nafwb.org/convention](http://www.nafwb.org/convention)) beginning March 15, 2004.

It is not often that it happens, but the congregation of Sand Hill FWB Church, Coward, were able to surprise **Pastor Sherwood Lee** on Sunday, Feb. 8th with a special Pastor Appreciation Day. They printed up one bulletin for him and then distributed another bulletin for the congregation so he would not know what was going on.



Deacon Larry Hawkins presents Pastor Lee a gift of appreciation

The special service of songs, testimonies, and presentations was highlighted by the recognition of the key roll the Pastor's wife, Vada, played in his ministry and in the ministry of the church.

Brother Sherwood is our State Moderator and serves on the National Foreign Mission Board in addition to his full time job as a nurse and a Pastor.

**ACALL FOR THEOLOGICAL PAPERS**  
 NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE--The 2004 Theological Symposium will be held October 25-26 on the campus of Free Will Baptist Bible College, Nashville, Tennessee. All who wish to submit a paper are encouraged to do so.

Papers should be 10-15 pages in length, double spaced, and should be related to the Bible, theology, Christianity and culture, or some related topic. You may submit your paper by August 1, 2004, to:

Matt Pinson  
 3606 West End Avenue  
 Nashville, TN 37205

E-mail: [president@fwbbc.edu](mailto:president@fwbbc.edu)

The symposium is sponsored by the Commission for Theological Integrity of the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

We were able to rejoice before we starting rejoicing. When we arrived for Sunday School at **First Free Will Baptist Church of Hamlet, NC** on Sunday, March 7th we met in the new fellowship/educational building. The



Pastor Tom Hill looks on as the Deacon Board present the Plaque dedicating the Church's new Educational Building in honor of Rev. and Mrs. Reddin Hill. Brother Frank McCray is on the far left.

rooms were roomy and very inviting for members to worship and for visitors to attend. Rev. Reddin (Buddy) Hill was the Pastor of this church for 26 years before his retirement. In honor of his dedication and hard work the Church decided to dedicate the new building in his honor but they did not want Brother Buddy to know about it so they simply asked him to preach a special service. At the conclusion of the worship service Pastor Tom Hill called Preacher Buddy and wife, Evelyn, to the front of the Church where the Deacon Board presented them a dedication plaque to hang in the new building. They also informed Brother Buddy that good friend, Rev. Frank McCray, would be bringing the morning message.



The new Fellowship/Educational Building is directly behind the Church

After a great time of worship everyone then adjourned to the "Buddy and Evelyn Hill" Educational Building for a delicious meal and time of fellowship.



**SCFWB State Youth Retreat-** April 16-17, 2004 From 5:00pm Friday, April 16th until 7:00pm Saturday, April 17th (This will allow you to get home in plenty of time for Sunday Services).

Location: Radisson Hotel and Suites, Spartanburg, SC.

Cost: Each youth must remit a \$70 registration fee and each sponsor a \$50 registration fee. This fee includes all scheduled activities and all meals on Saturday.

Churches should plan to stay together as much as possible at four people per room- boys with boys and girls with girls with at least one adult sponsor per seven youth.

Programs and Registration forms can be obtained from SCFWB State Youth Director, Rev. Richard Conyers (864) 545-6860- church or (864) 545-6347-Home.

On the WEB- Programs and registration information available at [www.SCFWB.com](http://www.SCFWB.com). Check out the Hotel at [www.radisson.com](http://www.radisson.com) and the Activities at [www.frankiesfunpark.com](http://www.frankiesfunpark.com).

**ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 24TH.**



**SCFWB Women Active for Christ** (Most people still call it "Ladies Auxiliary"! ) State meeting will be Saturday, March 20, 2004 at Liberty FWB Church, Lancaster. Committee meetings will take place at 8:30am. Registration at 9:00am with the service beginning at 9:30am. Special speakers are: Home: Marjorie Wilson, Workplace: Barbara Barnette, Church: Leilani Reid, Community: Rev. Gerardo Rodriguez and Rev. Rick Bowling.



This year's theme is "Courage to Stand" Joshua 1:9. The program is available on the web at [WWW.SCFWB.Com](http://WWW.SCFWB.Com).

**ROLL CALL SUNDAY** is Easter Sunday, April 11, 2004. We are looking to have 15,000 people attending Free Will Baptist Churches in South Carolina on that day with hundreds of salvation decisions. Begin praying and planning now for this Big Day. Churches should contact their Conference Moderator on Sunday Afternoon (April 11) by phone or via email (If you use email, include a carbon copy to [Mike@SCFWB.com](mailto:Mike@SCFWB.com)). Reports will be published on the State Web site Sunday Night and Monday Morning, in the "Informer" soon after this, and need to be sent to the National Home Mission Department by Wednesday, April 14, 2004.



Free Will Baptist Bible College president, Matt Pinson, will be teaching special classes on Free Will Baptist Doctrine, History, and related topics at White Savannah FWB Church Friday and Saturday, April 23-24, 2004. Contact Pastor Buddy Seay at (843) 365-3323 (church) or (843) 365- 3326 (home) for more details.



The 2003 "66 Club" of First FWB Church of Kingstree. Pastor Wayland Owen's way of getting people to read through the Bible on a regular basis.

