

# THE



Vol. 43 Num 2  
Summer 2013

# INFORMER

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

Address all correspondence to

Todd Smith, P.O. Box 9, Turbeville, SC 29162  
(843) 657-2091 Email: ToddSmith@scfwb.com

[www.scfwb.com](http://www.scfwb.com)

## National Association of Free Will Baptists Logo



The logo of the National Association of Free Will Baptists incorporates four symbols used by the earliest communities in Christendom: the ship, the fish, the anchor, and the cross. In the four corners of the ship's sail, the symbols of earliest Christianity are enhanced by modern emblems of a vital, living faith—the Holy Bible, the Loaf and Cup, the Basin and Towel and Clasped Hands—the symbols of Free Will Baptists.

The Ship symbolizes the Church and represents all the members pulling in one direction, guided and empowered by the Holy Spirit. Seeking to fulfill Christ's last command to the Church, Free Will Baptists unite in one purpose with one priority to proclaim the good news of the gospel throughout the world.

The Fish is one of the most popular symbols for Jesus Christ. Many believe that it was a symbol which identified Christians during periods of persecution. The word "fish" in the first century Greek (ichthus) is an acrostic for Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior.

The Anchor on the bow of the ship symbolizes the Christian hope of salvation, "the sure, strong and steadfast anchor of the soul." The Cross forms the emblem in the mast of the ship. It is the most familiar symbol in the history of the world. The Cross, an instrument of execution and death turned into a worldwide emblem of hope and love by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The Bible is the foundation of our faith. Free Will Baptists adopt the Word of God as our only rule of faith and practice. We believe the scriptures to be inspired, inerrant, infallible and immutable.

The Loaf and Cup represent the Lord's supper. This ordinance commemorates the death of Christ for our sins in the use of the bread which He made the emblem of His broken body and the cup the emblem of His shed blood.

The Basin and Towel historically symbolize the service and outreach of the church, but for us it has an added significance of representing our practice of washing the saints' feet.

The Clasped Hands symbolize many things to us: fellowship, brotherhood and the warmth of our faith. Perhaps the most important thing symbolized by the clasped hands is our commitment to reach out to people around the world with the good news.

## Welch College Elro Driggers Scholarship Fund

On Sunday evening, June 30, 2013, Beulah Free Will Baptist Church in Pamplico honored the life of Reverend Elro Driggers by starting the Welch College Elro Driggers Scholarship Fund. During the service, Welch College representative Reverend Mike Edwards shared a presentation about the college and preached the message for the service. Prior to his presentation, Mrs. Myra Bazen sang one of Reverend Driggers' favorite songs, "How Beautiful is the Body of Christ." A reception in the fellowship hall followed the evening service. The scholarship will be for students from the South Carolina Conference who attend Welch College. For details, contact Allan Austin at [allanmaustin@yahoo.com](mailto:allanmaustin@yahoo.com) or (843) 493-5066.



Pictured Left: Presentation from Reverend Al-lan Austin, the pastor at Beulah FWB Church, to Reverend Elro and Mrs. Nancy Driggers regarding the Driggers Scholarship Fund.

### SC FWB Jr. Camp - Ages 8-12

July 29-August 2, 2013

Camp Pee Dee

Marion, SC

Theme: "Keeping it Clean in 2013"

Theme Verse: Deuteronomy 23:12-14

Speaker: Reverend Thad Jacobs

Cost: \$135 per camper

\*Deposit Due: \$35 per camper

### SC FWB Teen Camp - Ages 13-18

August 5-10, 2013

The Anchorage

Lake Waccamaw, NC

Theme: "What is Your Life?"

Theme Verse: James 4:14

Speaker: Reverend Jonathan Blakenship

Cost: \$200 per camper

\*Deposit Due: \$35 per camper

For brochures, registration forms, and other information, visit [www.scfwb.org/youth\\_ministries.htm](http://www.scfwb.org/youth_ministries.htm)

## Mill Branch Fiftieth Anniversary



Mill Branch Free Will Baptist Church celebrated their fiftieth anniversary service on Sunday, May 5, 2013. Pastor Scott Ard welcomed everyone in attendance, and Mr. Roger Poston opened in prayer. After a congrega-

tional hymn, Mrs. Ann Tisdale shared a memorial for deceased members. Mr. Burnie and Mrs. Mary Lee Poston lit a candle in memory of the many faithful members who have went on to be with the Lord. Mr. Tommy Poston then led in prayer after a moment of silence. Special singing was provided by Dottie, Dean, Miranda, and Linda, and afterwards, Rev. Mike Jones shared a "Reflection of the Early Years" of Mill Branch Church. Before the intermission, a video presentation compiled by Mrs. Jenny Ard was shared with the church. During the worship service, an award pin was presented to Mrs. Bobbie McGuire for perfect Sunday school attendance for 11 years. Pastor Scott Ard shared the message, and Mrs. April Lyerly closed the service with an invitation song.

At an organizational meeting in September 1962, there were 25 in attendance to show their support in starting Mill Branch FWB Church. Within weeks, Jolly "Chunk" Poston drew up the plans for a church building. Norvel Poston donated the land and some materials, and many volunteered their time to help build the church. During the building process, after the pulpit foundation was laid, L.E. Ard was asked to stand and read John 3:16. Fifty years later, he was asked to stand and read this same passage during the anniversary service. The dedication service for the church was held on March 3, 1963. There were 55 charter members and 77 Sunday school members when the church began. A half a century later, Mill Branch FWB Church still stands on the promises of the living Word of God and continues to minister in the community and surrounding area.



Pictured Above: Pastor Scott and wife Mrs. Jenny Ard. Pictured directly above: Congregation during the anniversary service. Pictured Left: Mr. L.E. Ard reading John 3:16, which was the first passage read at the church 50 years ago.

## Mini-Bus Given to Peace Church

On Sunday, April 14, 2013, Reverend Donnie Miles, the pastor at Peace FWB Church in Florence preached on stewardship in preparing for the World Mission Offering. Unbeknownst to him, plans had been in place for anonymous donors to give a church mini-bus to Peace Church the week before. At the end of the service, everyone was surprised when he held up the set of keys to the new bus that was designated for use for the "Jolly Saints." There was much rejoicing that day in knowing that one cannot out give the Lord.



Pictured Left: Pastor Donnie Miles with the donated church bus.

## Pastor's Wife Awarded Director of Nursing for the Year



Mrs. Tammy Hiott (pictured left with husband Reverend Robie Hiott) was named Director of Nursing of the Year for Life Care Centers of America's Eastern Division. The award was presented at Life

Care's annual director's of nursing meeting in Tennessee. The award is given to the director of nursing in each Life Care's seven divisions who demonstrates outstanding qualities in seven areas, staff development and successful state surveys. Tammy was praised during the meeting for her continual drive to improve her nursing skills to serve the residents, putting together a cohesive team of caring nursing staff and decreasing the turnover rate for nursing aides by 45 percent. She was chosen for the award from all directors of nursing in Life Care's Eastern Division, which includes 41 facilities in Georgia, Kentucky, the Carolinas, Tennessee, and Virginia. Mrs. Tammy Hiott's husband Reverend Robie Hiott is the pastor at the First FWB Church in Charleston. We congratulate Mrs. Tammy on a job well done.

## SC FWB Fall Teen Retreat

Date: October 25-26, 2013

Place: Landmark Resort, Myrtle Beach, SC

Cost: \$135 per person

Ages: 12 and Up

Speaker: Reverend Kevin Smith

\*Continue to check for updates on the SC FWB

Youth Ministries page at -

[http://www.scfwb.org/youth\\_ministries.htm](http://www.scfwb.org/youth_ministries.htm)



### Merit Award Presented to Lee by McLeod Hospital

Reverend Sherwood Lee, the pastor at Sand Hill FWB Church and moderator for the South Carolina Free Will Baptist State Association, was presented the Merit Award by McLeod Regional Medical Center on May 8, 2013. During the award ceremony, it was also noted that he was selected as McLeod's "Nurse of the Year" in 1992. In a letter read during the ceremony, Dr. Fred Krainin indicated, "Sherwood is perhaps the most giving, selfless person I have ever met. After working his two full time jobs, he will not hesitate to visit friends, family members, or members of his congregation who are ill, in the hospital, or in need." After graduating from Welch College (then Free Will Baptist Bible College), Sherwood and his wife Vada served 20 years as missionaries in Africa. In 1972, after coming back to the states, Sherwood began to pursue his nursing degree, which he was able to use on the mission field as a medical missionary. While on the mission field in Africa, he delivered hundreds of babies, treated patients with many illnesses, and was a witness to those around him. During extended furloughs, Sherwood worked at McLeod Hospital and ultimately became a full time employee upon returning to the states. We congratulate Reverend Sherwood Lee on receiving the Merit Award, one of the highest awards given by McLeod Regional Medical Center.



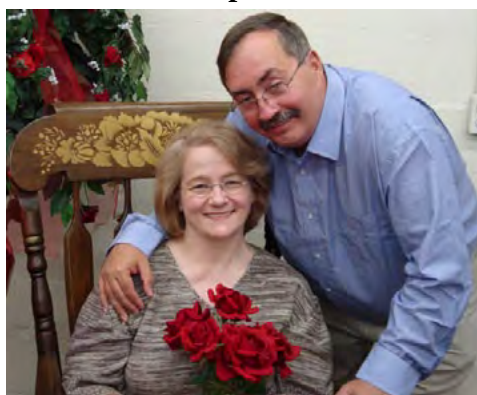
Pictured Left: Susan Pickle, Associate Vice President of Corporate Quality at McLeod, Sherwood Lee, and his wife Vada.

### Bus Donated to Lebanon FWB Church

In April 2013, Lebanon FWB Church was given a church bus donated by 3D Metal Works in Andrews, SC. The bus appraises for \$29,000.00. It is a 26 passenger bus. Lebanon will use the bus for ministry purposes, including starting a ministry to pick up children who would not otherwise have transportation to attend church. Their hopes are that this will enable them to reach out to the family members of children to ultimately win them to Christ as well. The bus will also be used for Senior Ministry and Youth Group trips to various events and places. In the past, they have had to rent two to three vans to carry the youth to various events, so the donation of the bus was a great blessing. (Pictured Below: Pastor Mac Atkinson with the donated bus)



### Scherer Accepted the Pastorate at Mt. Carmel



Reverend Byron Scherer, a native of Illinois, was ordained through the True Life Conference on November 20, 2004. He and his wife Laurie (pictured left) were married in January 1976, and they have two children,

Danielle (married to David Mathis) and Frank (married to Jill). Reverend Scherer and his wife have four grandchildren. The Scherers moved to York, South Carolina in 1997.

Reverend Bryon indicated that he preached his first sermon on Easter Sunday, January 11, 1965, when he was nine years old. He also indicated that he ran from God until he became a member at Mt. Carmel FWB Church in York in January 2000. He was fortunate and blessed to have as his pastor Reverend John Cody who took him under his wing and became a mentor, friend, and positive influence in his life and ministry. Reverend Byron Scherer accepted the pastorate at Mt. Carmel FWB Church in November 2012 after Reverend John Cody's retirement. Reverend Scherer also serves as the clerk for the True Life Conference. We extend a welcome to Reverend Scherer to Mt. Carmel.

### Brasington Accepted the Pastorate at Pine Grove



Reverend George Brasington was voted in as pastor at Pine Grove Free Will Baptist Church in Jefferson on April 21, 2013, where he had been supplying the pulpit since January 2013.

He and his wife Joyce were invited many years ago to attend South Avenue Free Will Baptist Church in Lancaster (currently Canaan FWB Church) where Reverend Ansel Smith served as the pastor at that time. He was saved on October 22, 1973. While at South Avenue Church, he helped teach the adult Sunday school class and later accepted the call to preach on October 22, 1976. He and his wife later attended Faith Free Will Baptist Church where he was ordained on October 31, 1982. He worked at Dupont for 38 years in Camden and served pastorates in several churches. His first church was Lesslie Free Will Baptist Church in Rock Hill, and he later went to Pine Grove Free Will Baptist Church from 1984 to 1990. He later returned to Lesslie Church and also assisted in the ministry at High Point Free Will Baptist Church in Lancaster. After 23 years, he has returned to Pine Grove Free Will Baptist Church. He and his wife enjoy gardening and stay busy with their family of three children and eight grandchildren.



### Brown Accepted the Pastorate at Wildwood

Reverend Terry Brown accepted the pastorate at Wildwood Free Will Baptist Church in Nichols in May 2013. He was licensed into the ministry through the Central Association on July 25, 1998, and he was ordained at Rains Free Will Baptist Church on August 4, 1999. He and his wife Debbie have one son named Justin. He served as an interim pastor for a year at Greater Vision Free Will Baptist Church, and he also served as the pastor at Bethel Free Will Baptist Church in Florence for a combined total of nine years. We welcome his family to Wildwood Free Will Baptist Church.



Pictured Left to Right: Justin, their son, their niece Cierra, Mrs. Debbie Brown and Rev. Terry Brown

### Driggers Honored for 80th Birthday

Reverend Elro Driggers was honored for his 80th birthday by friends and family on Saturday, May 25, 2013, at the Tabernacle Free Will Baptist Church Family Life Center in Coward. Reverend Driggers was ordained into the ministry in 1953 and graduated from Free Will Baptist Bible College (now Welch College) in 1954. He served pastorates in South Carolina, Arkansas, Missouri, Florida, and Tennessee in his years of ministry. He also obtained a degree in Education from Jacksonville University in 1971 and a Masters Degree in Administration in 1975 from the University of North Florida. He and his wife Nancy have three children and one foster child. In all, they have seven grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren. He retired at the age of 75 having served as the pastor at Beulah Free Will Baptist Church in Pamplico and later at the age of 78 served as interim pastor at Unity Free Will Baptist Church in Johnsonville. He and his wife Nancy have been faithful servants of the Lord for many years, and they currently reside in Lake City, South Carolina. We commend them for a job well done. Pictured below are his children and grandchildren on the day of his birthday celebration at Tabernacle Free Will Baptist Church in Coward.



### Saverance 87th Birthday and Lebanon Youth Service

On Sunday, May 26, 2013, Lebanon Free Will Baptist Church held a Youth Service and also honored Reverend Reedy Saverance with an 87th birthday party after the evening service. During the youth service, Justin Lynch shared a message from Matthew 28:18-20, and Kevin Floyd provided special music on the trumpet.

After the evening service, a cake and ice cream fellowship was held in the Family Life Center for Reverend Reedy Saverance's 87th birthday. Reverend Saverance answered the call to preach in the spring of 1949. During his years of attending Free Will Baptist Bible College (now Welch College), he traveled with the Bible College Quartet. Lebanon Free Will Baptist Church in Effingham was his first pastorate in 1953. He also served in pastorates in Arkansas, Florida, and Georgia, and he later returned as the pastor of Lebanon Church from 1993-2001. He currently serves as the seniors pastor at Lebanon Church and has been in the ministry for 65 years. We commend him for his many years of faithful service.



Pictured Left: Justin Lynch sharing a message and testimony during the Youth Service at Lebanon Church.

Pictured Right: Kevin Floyd providing special music on the trumpet during the Youth Service at Lebanon



Pictured Left: Mrs. Anne and Reverend Reedy Saverance at the birthday party honoring him for his 87th Birthday.



## Welch College Dinner Raises Over \$15,000.00

An "Ignite the Flame Dinner" was held on behalf of Welch College on May 24, 2013, and hosted at Lebanon Free Will Baptist Church in Effingham. Reverend Mike Edwards, Director of the Annual Fund at Welch College, welcomed everyone to the dinner. Brian and Kristi Sargent and Julie Hill from Horse Branch FWB Church in Turbeville, provided special music. Welch College representatives David Williford and Gary Frye shared about the various needs of the college, and FWB Foundation Director David Brown shared about Planned Giving that can benefit Welch College. There were almost 130 in attendance, and there was over \$15,000.00 given for the offering. Everyone in attendance enjoyed a steak dinner provided by Lebanon Free Will Baptist Church.



Pictured Above: Ministers and Welch College representatives in attendance at the Ignite the Flame Dinner - Back Row Left to Right: Chris Edwards, David Williford, Mike Edwards, David Brown, Danny Stone / Middle Row Left to Right: Brian Sargent, David Carlson, Allan Austin, Theron Scott, Bruce Kimbrel, Mark Leonard, Reedy Saverance / Front Row Left to Right: Todd Smith, Gary Frye, Mike Jones, Jacob Creech, Earl Hanna, Joe Postlewaite, and Galen Dunbar.

## 5K Run/Walk Raises Over \$4,000 for Children's Home

Reverend Lee Moore, the Youth Pastor at Grace Free Will Baptist Church in Lake City, organized a 5K Run/Walk Benefit Fund Raiser for the Free Will Baptist Home for Children in Turbeville. The event was held on Saturday, May 4, 2013, with 120 participants. Grace Free Will Baptist Church in Lake City had 23 who participated in the race and 6 who volunteered. The first pastor to cross the finish line was Reverend Joey Postlewaite, the pastor at Westside Free Will Baptist Church in Johnsonville. The first to finish, while pushing a child in a stroller and while also carrying a baby in a chest pouch, was Lebanon Free Will Baptist Church Youth Pastor Chris Edwards. Lots of trophies and gifts provided by various sponsors were given out to participants. Black River Free Will Baptist Church in Andrews swept the 20-24 age male and female categories. Reverend Lee Moore, the organizer of the event, would not except an award for his first place personal time of 18:57. It turned out to be a great event, and we express appreciation to all who participated.



## New Prospect Christian School Graduation

New Prospect Christian School, a ministry of New Prospect Free Will Baptist Church in Pamplico, held their graduation service on Friday, May 31, 2013. After the prelude by Mrs. Myra Leonard and the pledge to the flags, Pastor Wayne Smith welcomed everyone. Salutatorian Roddy Bailey shared remarks, and special music was provided by Mrs. Gwen Ard and Mrs. April Smith. Valedictorian Stacey King shared words of remembrance. Afterwards, SC FWB Executive Secretary Todd Smith preached the graduation message. School Administrator Mrs. Lula Mims and Pastor Wayne Snipes presented the diplomas to the graduating class of 2013. Marshalls included Kaitlin Jones, Justin Bass, and Morgan Calcutt. We congratulate the Class of 2013 on a job well done.



Pictured Above - Back row left to right: Rev. Wayne Smith, Blaine Horton, Josh Thompson, Roddy Bailey, Jacob Cox / Front row left to right: Rebekah Johnson, Shannon Graham, Stacey King, Ms. Lula Mims

## Graduates Honored and Pastor Receives Masters Degree

Turning Point Free Will Baptist Church honored their graduates by presenting them with a card and check from the church. Three teens were honored for a job well done.

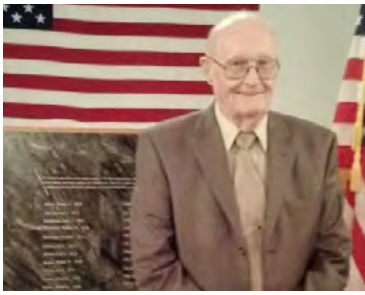


Pictured Left to Right: Brandon Hamilton will be attending USC Upstate and majoring in Chemistry; Jonathan Black will be attending Wofford College and majoring in Pre-Medicine / Not Pictured: Kinsey Vess will be attending Spartanburg Community College.

Also, Pastor Todd Black received his Masters Degree from Andersonville Theological Seminary and graduated with honors, Summa Cum Laude. He has also started working on his doctorate degree with Andersonville as well. We congratulate him for this great accomplishment.



## Memorial Day Service to Honor Veterans



Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church in Florence commemorated Memorial Day on May 26, 2013. During the service, after the pledge to the flags and the singing of patriotic songs, a list of deceased friends and relatives who served in the Armed Forces was read from a

memorial placard. Monroe Harrell (pictured above), a WW II veteran shared remarks about the hardships and sacrifices experienced during the years of war. He served in the army infantry for two years during WW II and was an active soldier from January 1944 to December 1945. Members noted that the special service was one of the best Memorial Day services they have ever had.

### “I’M IN YOUR HANDS”

Submitted and written by Reverend Bennie Turner

The following poem was written by Reverend Bennie Turner upon the news that he would have to be on kidney dialysis for the rest of his life.

#### “I’m In Your Hands”

Lord, I don’t understand it all.

This sudden, overwhelming circumstance  
In which I suddenly find myself.  
But this I know -- I’m in your hands.

I know that you who saved my soul,  
Commissioned me and gave me peace  
Will not now forsake your own,  
But rather make my fears to cease.

Will lift me up to a higher plain,  
A greater work through this to do.  
Use me, Lord! I’m here to serve  
And give the praise to which You’re due.

Others in this time of trial  
May never find the way  
To overcome and victory claim  
Because they never learned to pray.

And so, dear Lord, I pray to you,  
Let my great affliction be  
A stepping stone, a witness sure  
That through it you, they all may see.

And when, at last, my life is done  
And I meet you face to face,  
With all my heart, I’ll give you thanks  
For your amazing, saving grace.

But until then, I’ll persevere.  
Serve you true, keep your commands,  
Knowing this -- what’re may come  
I’m safe and sound -- I’m in your hands!  
-Reverend Bennie Turner

## Memorial to Beulah Mims



Mrs. Beulah Mims (age 96), the daughter of the late John Baggett and a member at Horse Branch Free Will Baptist Church, passed away on March 18, 2013. As a member of the Ellison Capers Chapter 70 of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC), she was the only known surviving “Real Daughter of the Conferacy” in South Carolina. Her father John Baggett was only

17 when he enlisted in Co. I, 23rd Regiment in the South Carolina Infantry. The UDC is the oldest Southern heritage and patriotic organization made up of the lineal and collateral female descendants of the soldiers, sailors and statesman of the Confederate States of America. UDC president Mary Armstrong said, “It’s history. It’s sad that she’s gone. To think her father fought for the Civil War is just amazing.” In the years that Mrs. Beulah Mims was a member at Horse Branch Free Will Baptist Church, she was very active in the Women Active for Christ and other ministries. Many gifts were given to the Free Will Baptist mission work in India in memory of her life and legacy. She will be greatly missed.

## Memorial to Iven Miles

Mr. Iven Miles, age 81, passed away on Saturday, May 25, 2013. The funeral was held at Peace Free Will Baptist Church in Florence on Thursday, May 30, 2013, and the burial took place at the Tabernacle Free Will Baptist Church cemetery in Coward. Mr. Iven is the father of Reverend Donnie Miles, the pastor at Peace Church in Florence. Mr. Iven was a very active member of the Free Will Baptist Home for Children Golf Tournament committee, helping to raise thousands of dollars for the Children’s Home during the years of its existence. He was a veteran of the Korean War. He had a strong love for the Lord and sang with the group “The Bible Tones” for forty years. He was a great soldier of the cross and will be greatly missed. Pictured below is Mr. Iven and Mrs. Alene Miles and their extended family.



NAFWB ANNUAL  
LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE  
DECEMBER 9-10, 2013  
NASHVILLE, TN



## Conference / Church Dues Explained

Each year, churches are requested to submit an annual report form to the conference or association of which the church is a member. The annual report is compiled with reports from other churches and then submitted as one report to the South Carolina Free Will Baptist State Association at its annual meeting. The reports submitted by conference clerks are then combined by the State Clerk and submitted as one report to our National Association of Free Will Baptist. Once the report passes a conference level, the church name is not affiliated with the report to the State Association or to the National.

Also, each local church is requested to pay dues to the conference of which they are a member. The amount of the dues varies by each conference or association. The dues are paid by the local church directly to the conference each quarter (not directly to the State Association). The conference then pays dues on an annual basis to the South Carolina Free Will Baptist State Association. The State Association then pays annual dues to the National Association of Free Will Baptist. These dues and reports allow churches, conferences, and state associations to be seated at conference, state, and national meetings and are for membership and statistical data for the National Association of Free Will Baptist that helps the local church maintain a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS under the umbrella of the National Association of Free Will Baptist. Thank you for all your hard work in helping with church dues and reports. We are glad that you are a part of our Free Will Baptist family.



In a culture that views college and high school as throw away years to have as much fun as possible, a group of dedicated students gather each summer to prepare for a higher purpose. They gather to learn how to lead by becoming servants to their churches, their youth groups, their schools, and their communities. This is the Truth and Peace Student Leadership Conference. It is fully Free Will Baptist, and its footprint in leadership and service can be seen around the world as missionaries, colleges, pulpits, and classrooms have been impacted by Truth and Peace students since it all began in 1984. The conference is fifteen days of training that ultimately allows the students to become servant leaders at the National Youth Conference every summer. By the time the students arrive at the National Convention, they have been taught about how their spiritual gifting, personality, and talents are all combined for the unique opportunities they have to lead through serving others and the kingdom of Christ. A ministry of Randall House Publications for the last 27 years, Truth and Peace applications are available online. To learn more about this valuable ministry, visit [www.verticalthree.com/truth-and-peace](http://www.verticalthree.com/truth-and-peace).

## 2013 WMO Exceeds \$600,000.00

The International Missions office staff and World Missions Offering (WMO) team are rejoicing in the goodness of the Lord and the faithfulness of His people. Once again, the denomination has responded to the need for reaching the lost around the world. At the end of June, gifts for the 2013 World Missions Offering exceeded \$600,000. "O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endureth forever." Psalm 107:1

"Giving to International Missions and to the World Missions Offering has never been a better investment," declares Danny Williams, chairman of the International Missions Board. "On many of our fields, we are working with mature leaders who are developing their own strategies for multiplying churches in their countries. We could learn a lot from them. And, in other countries, our national churches are desperate to send their own to the ends of the earth."

"We are extremely excited about the way the 2013 WMO is trending," reports Mark McPeak, director of advancement. As of June 30, \$604,284.43 has been received in the office. This amount already exceeds all previous WMO totals—except the historic response to the 2012 financial crisis.

The 2012 total of \$1,010,935.64 was, by far, the largest offering ever received and included some unusually large gifts. The board's difficult decision to hold missionaries stateside due to our financial shortfall produced a crisis, and the denomination responded. "We will always be grateful for the way our people stood with us in 2012," says Clint Morgan, general director of the Mission. "But, we are equally encouraged that the denomination is giving again this year, without a looming crisis... simply because we want to see the gospel taken to the ends of the earth."

The 2013 WMO effort, led by national chairman Mark Price, has focused on involvement. "We relied on the African proverb 'put your faith in God, but tie your camel tight,'" Price explains. "We began with prayer and dependence on the Lord, and then invited our pastors, churches, and people to be involved." A record-setting 870-plus churches have either sent in their offering or indicated they plan to participate in the 2013 WMO. "Once again," says Price, "we have heard story after story of how God has moved in people's hearts and we have seen Him at work, doing great things! This is the way God intended us to work—together. All of us doing our part, no one person or church carrying the full load."

The largest WMO, before 2012's record response, was \$528,107.86 in 2008. At the pace this year's offering is coming in, we expect the total to go well beyond \$700,000—a 20% increase over the best non-crisis offering received. "Our philosophy is to grow the offering incrementally each year by involving more and more of our people," McPeak explains. "We consider the 2013 WMO a great success, and we can continue to build on it."

Gifts to International Missions, through the WMO or through monthly giving, help us labor together with the Body of Christ to fulfill the Great Commission! We praise the Lord for every person who is involved in this partnership.

## LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR DENOMINATIONAL DIRECTORS AND LEADERS

### Keith Burden - Executive Office



This coming September 2013, Reverend Keith Burden will have served as the National Association of Free Will Baptist Executive Secretary for 11 years. He is originally from the First Free Will Baptist Church in Poteau, Oklahoma, and his wife Debbie is originally from the First Free Will Baptist Church in Bakersfield, California. He previously served as an associate pastor for two years and as a senior pastor for 25 years prior to coming to the Executive

Office. Mrs. Debbie now serves as the FWB Yearbook/Registration Coordinator. Keith graduated from Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College with a Bachelor Degree in Theology, and he later graduated from Moody Bible Institute with a Masters Degree in Ministry. He and his wife Debbie have two daughters and son-in-laws and six grandchildren. Keith served as an officer of the National Association of Free Will Baptist for 22 years, and he also serves as Editor-in-Chief for *One*, the denominational magazine. "During the past ten years, I have attended most of the state meetings in South Carolina, and I have had numerous opportunities to speak in FWB churches there. I have come to know, love, and respect my Free Will Baptist brothers and sisters in Christ in South Carolina, and I appreciate everything they are doing to advance the Kingdom of God and the work of the denomination," said Executive Secretary Keith Burden.

### Larry Powell - National Home Missions



Ordained to the ministry in 1960 in his home state of Georgia, Larry Powell is a graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College and Bob Jones University. He and his wife Wanda were missionary church planters for several years establishing churches and Christian schools in St. Croix, Virgin Islands, Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico and McAllen, Texas. He has been involved in mission work serving as Chairman of the

Texas and Tennessee Home Mission Boards. He also served for many years on the Board of Trustees at Free Will Baptist Bible College. He has served pastorates in Florida, Tennessee, and Georgia. He currently serves as the general director of the Home Missions Department, North America, planting churches in Canada, USA, Mexico and the islands. He was approved as General Director of National Home Mission in 2000. He and his wife Wanda have three children, all involved in different areas of ministry.

### Eric Thomsen - ONE Magazine



Eric Thomsen has served as the Managing Editor of ONE magazine, the official publication of the National Association of Free Will Baptist, for ten years. His dad was a Free Will Baptist pastor, and he spent a good number of years in Brunswick, Georgia and Jacksonville, Florida. His wife Jennifer is

from the Crossroads Free Will Baptist Church in Detroit, Michigan. Eric previously served with Randall House Publications in various positions, including Manager of Marketing and Design, Marketing Manager, Teen Curriculum Editor, National Youth Coordinator, and Student and Children Ministries. He also currently serves as the Minister of Music at Bethlehem Free Will Baptist Church. Eric graduated with a BA in Pastoral Ministry and Music from Welch College in 1995. He and his wife Jennifer have one daughter, Victoria. Eric stated, "I am blessed with a godly heritage, a great family (including the Elro Driggers family in South Carolina) and a job that I love. It is a privilege to work for and with Free Will Baptists, to promote Christ's cause and kingdom."

### David Brown - Free Will Baptist Foundation



David Brown has been serving in some capacity with FWB Foundation since 1992 and became the Director in 2007. He is originally from Little Rock, Arkansas. He and his wife Temisia have two children, Reese, who just completed his sophomore year at Welch College and Adra who is in high school. David graduated

from Welch College in 1979 and attended Tennessee State University. He is a Certified Public Accountant. David stated, "Free Will Baptist Foundation exists to help Free Will Baptists use the financial resources God has provided to extend His kingdom. We are the planned giving arm of the denomination offering planned gifts that provide lifetime income, partial tax deduction, tax advantaged or tax free income, and when one dies, it allows them to make a gift to their favorite Free Will Baptist ministry."



## LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR DENOMINATIONAL DIRECTORS AND LEADERS

### Elizabeth Hodges - WNAC



Mrs. Elizabeth Hodges has served as the Executive Director of the Women Nationally Active for Christ for three years. She is originally from Liberty Free Will Baptist Church in Durham, NC, and her husband Eddie is from the Swainsboro Free Will Baptist Church in Georgia. For 30 years, she served in the field of education in various posi-

tions, including first, second, and fifth grade teacher. She also served as academic coordinator and elementary school principal while employed at College Heights Christian Academy. She served as the Cumberland District WAC president/vice-president for 19 years prior to coming to WNAC. Her husband Eddie serves as the pastor at Hendersonville FWB Church and previously served several pastorates in Georgia. Elizabeth graduated from FWBBC in 1976 and later received graduate degrees from Georgia Southern University and from Tennessee State University. She and her husband have three children and three grandchildren. "South Carolina is consistently one of the top ten states in the ministry of WNAC. The ladies of SC have a missions heart and diligently support those who have been called to go...Thank you, ladies, for being faithful! You are leaving footprints for those coming behind you to follow. It is my pleasure to serve as your director," stated Elizabeth.

### Ken Akers - National Master's Men



Ken Akers has worked with Free Will Baptist National Master's Men since 2000 and began serving as Director in January 2002. He is originally from Pikeville, Kentucky, and his wife Sandra is from Madison, Tennessee. He previously served as an optician for 25 years. He also served as a youth director and camp director and serves on the board for Mountain Faith Mission, a mission

in Haiti. His wife is currently a part time receptionist with Randall House Publications, and they have two sons and three grandchildren. Ken received his Bachelor of Biblical Science in 1992. Ken stated, "I am very blessed that God allows me to serve him. I appreciate the churches of South Carolina that have supported Master's Men through chapter participation, Father's Day Offerings, gifts, and participation in our sports fellowships."

### Dr. Matt Pinson - Welch College



Dr. Matthew Pinson began serving as Welch College (previously Free Will Baptist Bible College) president in 2002. He is originally from Pensacola, Florida, and his wife Melinda is from Whitsett, North Carolina. He previously served pastorates in Alabama, Connecticut, and Georgia. Among other degrees, he holds a master's degree from Yale Divinity School and a doctorate from Vanderbilt University.

He has published a number of articles and books, including *A Free Will Baptist Handbook*, *Four Views of Eternal Security*, *The Washing of the Saints Feet*, and *Perspective on Christian Worship: Five Views*. He and his wife have two children, Anna and Matthew. "The ministry of Christian higher education is important to preserving the identity and heritage of our denomination and training leaders for our churches, both ministers and laity. South Carolina Free Will Baptists have been some of the most important partners in this ministry for more than seven decades. We value our partnership with South Carolina Free Will Baptists toward a bright future for Welch College. Plus, some of the best food in my travels has been in SC," stated Dr. Pinson.

### Ray Lewis - Board of Retirement



Ray Lewis, has served in some capacity with the Free Will Baptist Board of Retirement for 30 years and has served as the Director for eight years. He and his wife Ida have two children and two grandchildren. He and his wife Ida are both originally from Rocky Mount Free Will Baptist Church in Rocky Mount, NC. Mrs. Ida has

served for many years as Publication Editor for Free Will Baptist Home Missions. Ray holds a business degree from the University of NC Pembroke and a Bible/Pastoral degree from Welch College. He also did some graduate work at Middle State University. Ray stated, "One of the joys of my life has been serving the Lord through the Free Will Baptist denomination. Being a part of helping our people plan financially for their retirement years is a great honor. Thank you, South Carolina, for your support of this ministry and thank you for loving your pastor enough to not only take care of him financially while he is your pastor but also for contributing to his retirement for later."

## LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR DENOMINATIONAL DIRECTORS AND LEADERS

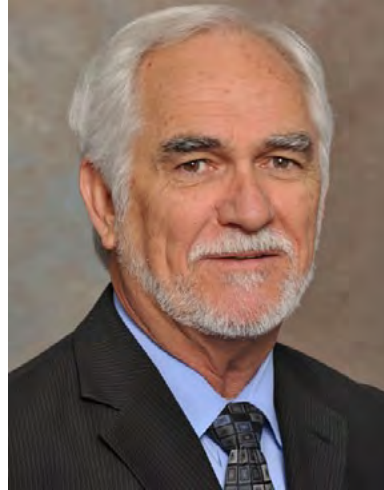
### Ron Hunter - Randall House Publications



Ron Hunter has served just over 11 years as the Executive Director and CEO of Randall House Publications, a nonprofit publisher for the National Association of Free Will Baptist. He grew up in Huntington Oaks Free Will Baptist Church in Florida. His wife Pamela grew up in the First Free Will Baptist Church in Dayton, Ohio. Pamela's father Mike Stokes, a Free Will Baptist minister and clerk for the Ohio State Association, accepted

the call to preach when Pamela was in high school. While attending Welch College, Ron was in the Army Reserve to help with college expense, with the potential hopes to be a military chaplain; however, God had other plans and lead Ron into the pastorate. After 11 years in the pastorate and a year in Nashville as the Minister of Christian Education at Cofer's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church, God lead Ron to Randall House Publications. Ron's wife Pam is currently undergoing chemotherapy treatments for ovarian cancer. Ron stated, "She is a rock, as her attitude and resolve carries her and our family forward through this unexpected time." Ron is currently two-thirds the way toward a Ph.D. in Leadership from Dallas Baptist University. He and his wife have two children, Michael, who is a sophomore at Tennessee Tech University and Lauren, who is a sophomore at Lee University. "Free Will Baptist are leading the body of Christ in family ministry and discipleship with the renewed emphasis on God's original plan from Deuteronomy 6. Randall House reaches others with our conservative roots and with our Free Will Baptist doctrine solidly taught within the curriculum."

### Clint Morgan - International Missions



Clint Morgan has served as the General Director for FWB International Missions for two years. He is a native of Wilson, NC. His wife Lynette is a native of Kirksville, MO. Her parents were FWB missionaries in Cote d'Ivoire, Africa. After completing his degree at Welch College, Clint worked at Donelson Christian Academy, and later worked for one year at the FWB Train-

ing Service Department. He and his wife were missionaries from 1975 until 2011 under FWB International Missions serving in Cote d'Ivoire, Africa and France. Lynette serves as a prayer coordinator for FWB International Missions. She has a team of 80 prayer warriors, called Gideon's Army, that have committed to pray for International Missions every day. She is facing some health challenges at this time but has the desire to keep the Gideon's Army informed and praying. Clint earned a Masters Degree from Columbian International University. He and his wife have four children, Trey who is a USAF Bomb Squad officer, Adam who lives in Columbia, South America and is the Director of Communications at an international school, Aaron who lives in Nashville as a registered nurse, and Autumn Joy who is a teacher by profession and nanny by choice. Clint and Lynette have five grandchildren. "Several years ago in Africa, we were facing some significant challenges. I sought out two senior missionaries and asked them for advice on how to come out victorious when facing such opposition. Someone gave the advice, 'Keep your head held high and your knees bent low...your head held high because you are a child of the King and your knees bent low because you are a servant to all.' That is advice hard to beat. It is truly an honor and privilege for me to serve God and our Free Will Baptist people in this role."

### Master's Men Deep South Golf Tournament - April 3-5, 2013



A record number of 84 golfers showed up for three days for the Master's Men event. The event began Wednesday with great weather, and the scores showed it with the leading team scoring a nine under par 63. However, the weather forecast for Thursday and Friday was 100% chance of rain. While there was a little rain, the guys endured and played the eighteen holes for the day. The weather forecast changed a little Friday but still not great. We had a light rain to start the round, but it stopped early. When all was said, it was still a great tournament. After a three year reign, new winners were crowned with a nineteen under par 197. Wayne Overton and Ben Cantrell walked away with the Championship Flight First Place trophy. Ronnie Brown and Ronnie Yance finished second. Jeff Pugh and Adrian Nottonson finished third, and Alan Sailors and Terry Trink rounded out the Championship Flight trophy winners finishing fourth. First place in First Flight went to the team of John Grove and Sam Lucky with second place going to James Buchanan and Wyman Keennon. Final trophies went to winners of the Second Flight First Place Crawford Page and Douglas Tidwell and Second Place winners Keith Burden and William Smith. (Pictured left: SC minister Larry Monday with other ministers from SC and across the denomination at meal time during the Golf Tournament).



## Calvary's 50th Anniversary



Calvary Free Will Baptist Church in Georgetown celebrated their 50th anniversary service on Sunday, July 14, 2013. The church was founded by Reverend Fred Kirby who is now deceased and who previously served as the SC Home Mission Director. The church started on July 14, 1963, and Fred Kirby

was the pastor from 1963-1971. Reverend Teddy Rabon (pictured above) welcomed everyone to the service, and special singing was provided by "The Carpenter's Tools," a singing group from Monk's Corner. Paulette Radcliffe, Micheale Lee, Weston Venters, and Rosa Michau shared testimonies regarding the history and memories of the church. In her testimony of the history of the church, Paulette shared that Calvary Church at one time had a Christian School ministry which was founded by Pastor Ron Moore. She also shared that Calvary Church had pastors such as Rex Evans, Galen Dunbar, Chris Todd, and others. Michael Lee shared in his testimony that Pat Walker invited his mother to church and provided transportation for him and his mother to go to church for a good while. He was a teenager at the time. His mother later became a Christian, and after many years of prayer, his father was saved during his 60s. After an intermission, Annette Nesbitt and Karen Rabon provided a medley of songs. After congregational singing and fellowship, the youth shared a skit to the song, "The Cross." After Savannah Rabon provided special music, Ruth Ann and Vicki sang before "The Carpenter's Tools" concluded the special singing. Reverend Earl Sutton, who served as the pastor at Calvary Church from 1971-

1977 preached the message, and everyone enjoyed a wonderful meal in the fellowship hall after the service. The current pastor, Reverend Teddy Rabon was voted in as the pastor in November 2007, and the church has seen substantial growth under his ministry. (Pictured Right: Paulette Radcliffe)



## Dr. David Gibbs Jr. to Speak at 2014 State Meeting



The SC FWB Executive Committee met on Thursday, June 20, 2013, to plan the 2014 State Association meeting and confirmed Dr. David Gibbs Jr., Founder of the Christian Law Association, as the main speaker for the meeting. The 2014 State Association Meeting will be hosted by the Beaver Creek Association and held on February 27-28, 2014, at Turning

Point FWB Church in Spartanburg. The Thursday night offering will go to Dr. Gibbs to help with his expenses of coming to the state meeting, and churches are encouraged to bring a love offering. In addition to preaching three times, Dr. Gibbs will be sharing a seminar relating to current topics in helping to protect churches into today's world. More details will regarding pre-registration, lodging, and other information will be posted to the SCFWB website. We look forward to a great 2014 state meeting.

## Combined Camp Meeting Service Before State Meeting

The 2014 South Carolina Free Will Baptist State Association meeting will be held February 27-28, 2014, at Turning Point FWB Church in Spartanburg. The General Board will meet on Wednesday, February 26, 2014. On Wednesday evening after the General Board meeting, Turning Point FWB Church will be hosting a Camp Meeting Service at 7 PM. Reverend David Crowe will be bringing the evening message, and special singing will be provided by the Parsons from Goshen, Indiana. Area churches are encouraged to combine their mid-week service with Turning Point Church for this special service, and everyone is invited to attend.

## SC FWB Executive / Program Committee Members



Pictured Above Left to Right: Reverend Danny Stone (Assistant Moderator), pastor at Tabernacle FWB Church in Coward; Reverend Scott Ard (Assistant Treasurer), pastor at Mill Branch FWB Church in Johnsonville; Reverend James Sanders (Upstate Member-at Large), pastor at First FWB Church in Chester; Reverend Marty Cox (Treasurer), pastor at Mt. Trolley FWB Church in Galivants Ferry; Reverend Sherwood Lee (Moderator), pastor at Sand Hill FWB Church in Coward; Reverend Stephen Hyman (Assistant Clerk), pastor at White Savannah FWB Church in Conway; Reverend Tommy Hill (Clerk), pastor at First FWB Church in Hamlet, NC; SC FWB Executive Secretary Todd Smith (Program Committee). Not Pictured: Reverend Wayne Snipes (Lower State Member-at-Large), pastor at First FWB Church, Myrtle Beach.



## SC WAC Retreat

**September 13-14, 2013**  
**White Oak Conference Center**  
**in Winnsboro, SC**

**The North Carolina Women Active for Christ**  
**will join in with the SC WAC**  
**for this year's retreat.**

**Guest Speaker: Terri Roberts**  
**Cost - \$75 per person**

**Visit [www.whiteoakconferencecenter.info](http://www.whiteoakconferencecenter.info)**  
**for directions.**

**For questions or details, feel free to email**  
**SC WAC Coordinator Mrs. Pam Hackett**  
**at [hackettp71@bellsouth.net](mailto:hackettp71@bellsouth.net)**

**We look forward to a great**  
**SC WAC 2013 Retreat!**  
**[www.scwac.com](http://www.scwac.com)**

### Informer Correction

In the Spring 2013 edition of the Informer, the following was reported as giving in 2012 from the Palmetto Conference:

PC New Harvest, Tradesville	\$125.00
PC Peace FWB Church, Spartanburg	\$125.00
Total	\$250.00

However, below is a correct reflection of the 2012 giving from the Palmetto Conference:

PC Peace FWB Church, Spartanburg	\$125.00
PC New Vision FWB Church, Rock Hill	\$100.00
PC New Harvest FWB Church, Tradesville	\$ 25.00
Total	\$250.00

The amount of funds disbursed was correct, and the funds were disbursed as they were designated. However, we credited \$100 in giving to New Harvest in Tradesville which was actually given by New Vision in Rock Hill. Again, all funds were disbursed correctly and accounted for, but the donors were listed incorrectly.

### Executive Secretary Todd Smith's Schedule

#### May

- 1 Close out financial books for Month of April
- 4 5K-Run/Walk for FWB Children's Home
- 5 Mill Branch FWB Church 50th Anniversary
- 8 McLeod Regional – Merit Award – Sherwood Lee
- 12 St. John FWB Church, Patrick
- 14 Florence/Darlington Area Minister Breakfast
- 14 Carolina Hospital System – Rev. Elro Driggers
- 15 Johnson Funeral Home– Mother of Chris Johnson
- 19 FWB Bible Church, Darlington – Homecoming
- 20 Funeral –Mrs. Nell Baker – Grandmother of Missionary Mandi Morgan (Uruguay)
- 21 Lake City Area Minister Luncheon
- 24 Welch College Ignite the Flame Dinner
- 25 80th Birthday Party – Rev. Elro Driggers
- 26 High Point FWB Church, Lancaster
- 26 87th Birthday Party – Rev. Reedy Saverance
- 30 Funeral Mr. Iven Miles - Rev. Donnie Miles' Dad
- 31 New Prospect Christian School – Graduation

#### June

- 2 Southside FWB Church, Aiken
- 3 Close out Financial Books for May
- 9 Happy Home FWB Church, Andrews
- 10 SC Home Mission Board Meeting – Columbia
- 11 Florence/Darlington Area Minister Breakfast
- 16 Father's Day with Family
- 18 Lake City Area Minister Luncheon
- 20 SC FWB Executive Committee Meeting
- 21 SC Conference Meeting – Mt. Elon FWB Church
- 22 Eastern Conference Meeting – Hickory Hill FWB
- 23 First FWB Church, Greenwood
- 30 Temple FWB Church, Darlington
- 30 Beulah FWB Church, Pamplico

#### July

- 7 Fellowship FWB Church, Florence
- 8 First FWB Church, Kingstree – Men's Fellowship
- 9 Florence/Darlington Minister Breakfast
- 10 Grace FWB Church, Lake City
- 13 Central Association Meeting – South Conway
- 14 Calvary FWB Church, Georgetown – 50th Homecoming Anniversary
- 14 Horse Branch FWB Church – Honor Youth Pastor & Family for Years of Service
- 16 Lake City Area Minister Luncheon
- 19 NAFWB Executive Committee Meeting
- 20-25 NAFWB National Convention
- 28 Tabernacle FWB Church, Coward
- 29 Charleston – Missionary Carlisle Hanna departs for India