



Heb. 6:19

### SCFWB Executive Secretary Schedule

#### June

- 1- Close Out Books
- 2- Conway Area Minister's Breakfast
- 7- Anchor Point FWB Anderson
- 13- Eastern Conference Meeting
- 16- Lake City Minister's Luncheon

#### July

- 1- Close out Books
- 7- Conway Minister's Breakfast
- 11- Central Association
- 18- NAFWB Convention
- 19- NAFWB Convention
- 20- NAFWB Convention
- 21- NAFWB Convention
- 22- NAFWB Convention
- 23- NAFWB Convention

- 26- First Kingstree

#### August

- 1- Close Out Books
- 2- Hartsville First
- 16- Low Country FWB Church
- 23- Fairview FWB Church
- 30- AM Oak Grove FWB Church
- 30- PM First Kingstree

#### September

- 1- Close out Books
- 6- Cornerstone FWB Whiteville
- 12- Eastern Conference
- 13- AM Revival Liberty, Manning
- 13- PM Revival Liberty, Manning
- 14- Revival Liberty, Manning
- 15- Revival Liberty, Manning
- 16- Revival Liberty, Manning

- 27- AM Revival First Kingstree
  - 27- PM Revival First Kingstree
  - 28- Revival First Kingstree
  - 29- Revival First Kingstree
  - 30- Revival First Kingstree
- October
- 9- Close out Books
  - 2- SC Conference Missions Luncheon
  - 11- Evergreen FWB Church
  - 13- Florence Darlington Minister's Breakfast
  - 18- AM Revival Sandhill
  - 18- PM Revival Sandhill
  - 19- Revival Sandhill
  - 20- Revival Sandhill
  - 20- Lake City Minister's Luncheon

### AVAILABLE MINISTER TO SUPPLY PULPIT

For our SC FWB churches, below is a list of available or retired ministers to help supply the pulpit in the absence of a pastor:

- Rev. Earl Hanna, Florence - (843) 617-7339
- Rev. James Pierce, Timmonsville - (843) 662-7391
- Rev. Leroy Lowery, Darlington - (843) 229-2078
- Rev. James Earl Raper, Turbeville - (843) 659-2366
- Rev. Jacob Creech, Turbeville - (843) 687-2301
- Rev. Galen Dunbar, Florence - (843) 676-9865
- Rev. Bobby Bowers, Greenville - (864) 230-0518
- Rev. Reedy Saverance, Effingham - (843) 601-1924
- Rev. W.D. Jones, Johnsonville - 843-472-0444
- Rev. Bennie Turner, Manning - (803)473-0286
- Rev. Paul Childers, Lockhart - (864) 545-6534
- Rev. W.D. Jones, Johnsonville - (843) 472-0444
- Rev. Donald Davis, Greenwood - (864) 998-4965
- Rev. Kenny Haselden, Johnsonville - (843) 731-4842
- Rev. David Henderson, Gastonia - (704) 616-2079

**THE**

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Free Will Baptists

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# INFORMER

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### Coming Soon Winter/ Late Fall 2015-16 Special Disaster Relief Edition

#### Grand Time in the River City



National Association of Free Will Baptists | July 19-22, 2015 | Grand Rapids, Michigan

The surging waters of the Grand River churned past DeVos Place Convention Center, as nearly 3,500 Free Will Baptists gathered in Grand Rapids, Michigan, for worship, fellowship, and business July 19-22. This is the first meeting of the National Association in the "River City."

Free Will Baptists from across the nation arrived in Grand Rapids ready for great worship

and powerful preaching, and they were not disappointed. Convention Music Coordinator Kevin Justice and the Music Commission delivered a strong program with a convention choir, orchestral ensemble, vocal ensemble, and a wide variety of special music that prepared listeners to receive the Word of God.

Sunday evening, after Michigan State moderator Ron Helms welcomed the National Association to the state, Rick Locklear, assistant pastor of Woodhaven FWB Church (MI), explored the Interpretation of God's Word from 2 Timothy 2:15, sharing practical questions to ensure believers are correctly interpreting God's Word. On Monday evening, Gene Norris, Michigan promotional secretary, took a second opportunity to welcome convention-goers to his home state before fiery Tennessee preacher Frank Woods took the pulpit to address the "confrontational" aspect of the Word of God (Hebrews 4:12). He reminded the congregation that the Word is both quick and powerful—convicting of sin and changing the sinner from the inside out. Tuesday morning's Preaching Conference featured powerful sermons from Danny Baer, academic dean at Southeastern FWB College, and Brian Williams, lead pastor at NorthPoint FWB Church in Buffalo, New York. Tuesday night, 40-year missionary veteran Steve Lytle preached from 2 Timothy 4:1-5 on The Word of God: Its Proclamation. He emphasized the importance of correct living and correct content in preaching, making it clear that every member of the congregation is both capable and responsible to proclaim the Word of God. The Wednesday night missions service, always a highlight, started with a parade of home and international missionaries, with 2015 E-TEAM members hoisting the flags of the nations before them. International Missions Director Clint Morgan commissioned the new missionaries, and denominational leaders surrounded them as David Crowe, director of North American Ministries, prayed for their ministries. Michigan native and long-time missionary to France Tom McCullough shared a message on The Word of God: Its Globalization from Acts 10. Based on the example of Peter and Cornelius, he challenged listeners not to let prejudice or resentment divide the world into "us versus them." Instead, Christians must understand that the gospel is for all people—no matter how sinful, unlovely, or unlike us. "Acts 10 gives us the perfect window that the Word of God is global. It is for everyone... and this has been the message of God since the very beginning."

## The Executive Office



Although the Executive Office finished with a \$5,922 operational deficit due to a downturn in giving to The Together Way, Auditor Terry Hill reported the Executive Office remains in stable financial condition. The agency finished with a surplus of \$23,850 when considering the financial reports of the convention and building services. Executive Secretary Keith Burden made note of a looming budgetary shortfall, however, and indicated that unless financial conditions improve, the 2016 administrative budget will be reduced \$10,584. He warned that few areas remain to trim operations.

Burden also made note of the fact that independent legal counsel approved the 2014 merger between Home Missions and Master's Men in a seven-page legal opinion. He announced the development of a security plan for churches after recent violence against a congregation in South Carolina.

He recognized Todd Smith for his work on the Executive Committee and updated delegates on the development of church revitalization efforts. The pilot program conducted in Springdale, Arkansas, is nearing completion, and revitalization will be the focus of the Leadership Conference in December. Burden also told delegates that ONE Magazine, which continues to reach nearly 55,000 Free Will Baptist households, recently celebrated its first decade in print.

He challenged Free Will Baptists everywhere to help meet our full potential. "I stand in opposition to those who say the day of the denomination is past. Now, more than ever, we need to lay aside differences and join hands to advance the Kingdom of God."

## Welch College

President Matt Pinson reported continuing academic and community excellence, with regional and national accreditation, an annual ranking among the best colleges by U.S. News and World Report, and consistently high scores on the Noel-Levitz Student Satisfaction Survey. He celebrated a campus culture of spiritual formation where "young men and women discover how they can serve Christ, His Church, and His world." He asserted that Christian higher education is more important now than any other time in the school's history, as the college develops students who will be salt and light in a crumbling culture.



He reported that the college turned a corner financially in 2014-15, aided in part by a boost in enrollment after Gateway College closed in 2013. The college finished the year with a surplus of \$180,000. While this may



not be a trend, it is a welcome respite. He introduced a new program, a Master's degree in Theology and Ministry.

Pinson also rejoiced over the sale of the West End campus and reported the start of construction on the new campus near Gallatin, Tennessee. "The excitement is almost palpable," he shared. "We have waited so long, and now, it has come to reality. We are launching out in faith, building on the work of those before us."

## Blessings in Brazil

This month marks 6 years of ministering here in Juiz de Fora, Brazil. During this time we have seen many people saved, baptized, and disciplined. From the beginning of the ministry here, we have been actively working toward the building of a permanent church. And now, after 15 months of building, book keeping, and countless meetings, we are about to reap the fruits of our labor. The First Free Will Baptist Church of Juiz de Fora is nearly complete! As we enter this 16th and final month of building, there is a rush to get everything ready for this transition from the rented facility to the new church building. Though there are still a lot of details, the major part of the construction is complete and we are ready to start worshipping the Lord in our new church building.

I praise the Lord for the team of gifted and devoted Brazilian laymen that have been so involved and committed to this project. This building program would have been a very difficult one without them.

The inauguration service of our new church building will be the 15th of November. We are expecting at least 150 people for this big day, the majority being unsaved. Please be much in prayer for this service. We truly desire to be used of God in this new location to reach and minister to more people than ever before.

This is your final opportunity to be a part of this church plant. The strength of the U.S. dollar is helping tremendously, but we still need \$15,000.00 to complete what the Lord has led us to begin. If you can help us, we and the Brazilian church here in Juiz de Fora, would be very grateful.

Proclaiming the Gospel in Juiz de Fora, Brazil, Andy, Andrea, Levi, and Lily Moore

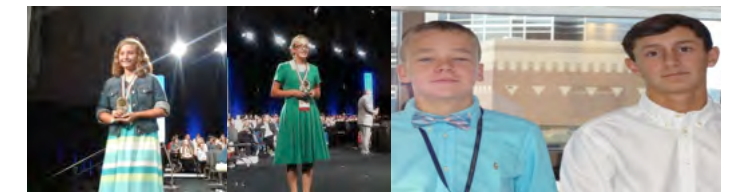


## NYC Competition



Pictured from left to right: Brianna Coker, Gracelyn Coker, DJ Pappas, Taylor McKenzie, Kelsie Hill, Madison Coker, Mellie & Gracie Driggers, Maysey Floyd, Gracelyn Coker, Maggie Coker, Bailey Floyd, and Dusty Hancock

Pictured from left to right: Kristina Bryant, Wanda Bryant, Nelson Hill, and Dusty Hancock  
Not Pictured: Hunter Langston



Individual Bible Memory - Grade 9 - Maysey Floyd, Horse Branch  
Individual Bible Memory - Grade 9 - Kristina Bryant, Bay Branch  
Individual Bible Memory - Grade 11 - Briana Johnson, Temple  
Group Bible Memory - Grade 11 - Madison Coker, Taylor McKenzie & DJ Pappas, Horse Branch  
Individual Bible Memory - Grade 12 - Brianna Coker, Horse Branch  
TruthQuest Jr Hi - Kristina Bryant, Bay Branch  
TruthQuest Sr Hi - Wanda Bryant, Bay Branch  
Female Vocal Solo (Age C-D) Kelsey Hill, Horse Branch  
Female Vocal Solo (Age C-D) Madison Coker, Horse Branch  
Duets - Gracelyn Coker & Kelsey Hill, Horse Branch  
Ensemble (5-12) - Horse Branch Ensemble, Horse Branch  
Dramatic Duo - Mellie & Gracie Driggers, Horse Branch  
Dramatic Duo - Dusty Hancock and Nelson Hill, Horse Branch  
Dramatic Duo - DJ Pappas & Madison Coker, Horse Branch  
Group Drama (3+) Horse Branch Drama, Horse Branch

Painting - Mellie Driggers, Horse Branch  
Drawings - Gracie Driggers, Horse Branch  
Photo Essay - Hunter Langston, Temple  
Long Article - Hunter Langston, Temple  
Devotion - Kristina Bryant, Bay Branch

**30 Years at Gilead FWB Church for Rev. Larry McAllister**



Sunday, August 30 marked 30 years of service to the Lord and Gilead Free Will Baptist Church for Bro. Larry D. McAllister and Sis. Retha McAllister. The occasion was marked by an old fashioned ice cream social with cake and ice cream for all. Bro. Larry was presented with a plaque in appreciation of his many years serving shepherd and the McAllisters were given several gift cards for dinners and other services to enjoy.

Bro. Larry was saved on January 19, 1981 while attending Salem FWB Church. Four years later he answered the call to preach and was ordained. He has served as the pastor of Gilead FWB Church since that time.

**Stone Ordination Service**



Reverend Joel Stone was ordained into the Gospel ministry on June 7, 2015 at Tabernacle Free Will Baptist Church in Coward, South Carolina, where he currently serves as associate pastor. The church was filled to capacity for the service. Joel and his wife Kathy have two sons, Robert and Lanford. Joel previously served as a deacon, Sunday school superintendent, and adult Sunday school teacher at Hillside Free Will Baptist Church, Joel's home church. Having later joined Peace Free Will Baptist church, Joel served there as a deacon and youth pastor.

He began his ministry license process in April 2013. During the ordination service, Jonathan Huff provided special music after the congregational hymn. Reverend Robert Nichols, Kathy's father, preached the ordination message, and Reverend Danny Stone, Joel's father, gave the charge. Reverend Galen Dunbar, representing the South Carolina Conference Presbytery Board, read scripture, prayed the prayer of dedication, and presented Reverend Joel Stone with his ordination certificate. Afterwards, everyone joined together in the life center for a time of food and fellowship.

**True Life Ordains Rev. Sam Bain**

We at Mount Carmel FWB were blessed to be a part of the Ordination Service for our Associate Pastor - Rev Sam Bain. The True Life Association Ordination Com-



mittee was pleased to accept and ordain him into the association. The charge was presented by Rev. Phil Lemmons and Rev Byron Scherer. We are blessed to have Sam and his wonderful family to be members of Mount Carmel. We all believe he is an answer to prayer. The Church was completely full of Sam's family and friends and people who love him. Please Pray for Sam, Krystle, Sam Jr, Nick and Gracie --- they will be facing many challenges in the coming years. Let's all ask the Lord to bless them in their ministry and their Christian walk.

**2015 Summer Camps**



With 110 campers for Jr. Camp and preacher

Joey Postlewaite doing a great job preaching during the week; SCFWB Jr. Camp was awesome! There were many decisions made on the altar with 5 salvations and 12 rededications. We had 78 campers for teen camp which is a big increase for our teen camp, and it was one of the best teen camps ever!! The largest night for attendance was Wednesday evening with multiple youth groups from area churches visiting. We had preacher Blake Coghill and he did an amazing job with our teens. We had 3 salvations and 15 rededications. The altars were full every night responding to God's word, and we had one young man answered the call to preach during our teen week. Praise the Lord!! We give God the glory!!! Let's continue to pray for our young people and the decisions they made at our SCFWB summer camps.

Teen Camp Evangelist:  
Rev. Blake Coghill



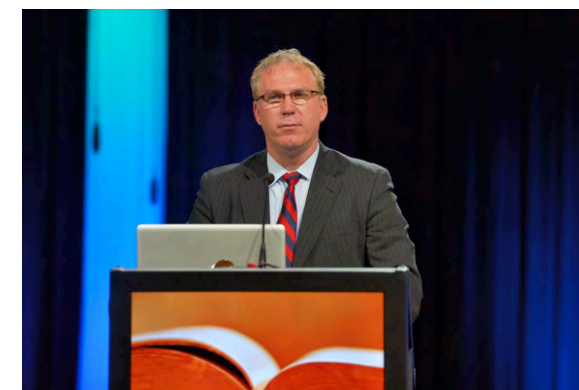
**Randall House**

Executive Director Ron Hunter described 2014 as both rewarding and challenging. As predicted at the 2014 convention, the publisher experienced a loss of \$322,249, the result of the cost of developing a new line of curriculum (while continuing to produce existing products), accounting adjustments for obsolete products, and significant remodeling to operational facilities. "While these financial challenges are concerning," said Hunter, "they were not unexpected, and we have implemented a 6% budget correction in 2015 to counteract the expenses."

He celebrated the release of 14 books in 2014-15 (nine by Free Will Baptist authors, all of which are available through the SCFWB Christian Book and Supply) and introduced D6 2Gen, a new curriculum line based on a comprehensive discipleship strategy for church and home. "I am more excited about the launch of D6 2Gen than I have been about any previous Randall House initiative during my tenure," Hunter said.

The new curriculum, which started this Fall 2015, will feature three separate studies each quarter—one month in the Old Testament, one month in the New Testament, and one month reserved for special topics such as apologetics, key theological concepts, and cultural issues. The material continues to use the CLEAR learning system, although the system has been improved and adapted for the new content.

While enthusiastic about these achievements, Hunter cautioned delegates about the future: "All Christian publishers are facing challenging days as church attendance declines in the United States. So far, Randall House has weathered the storm that has put many other publishers out of business. In recent days, however, as a result of our emphasis on Free Will Baptist doctrine, we have seen a significant decline in sales outside the denomination. Now, more than ever, we need Free Will Baptist churches to support Randall House by using our curriculum. We are the only Sunday



School publisher on the market dedicated to teaching our doctrine."

**International Missions**



Director Clint Morgan rejoiced that the department ended 2014 in the black, and thanked the 700 churches that gave to International Missions during that year. However, he also challenged the remaining 66% of Free Will Baptist churches to support the cause of global evangelism. In May 2015, World Missions Offering totaled \$567,150 (down nearly \$120,000 from last year), but according to Morgan, it is not too late for churches to take part. "The power of one obedient Christian—if fearless and focused—is formidable," Morgan told listeners, "but the power of the Body of Christ working together as one is unstoppable!"

He shared exciting statistics from 2014—950 conversions, 927 baptisms, and an average international weekly attendance of 26,371. The Hanna Project has upcoming trips to Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, and Tajikistan, and two teams, with a combined 25 participants, took part in CMP (College Missions Program) trips earlier this year. Five additional students spent six weeks serving as Overseas Apprentices, and more than 100 high school students participated in E-TEAM, traveling to 11 sites around the globe for a firsthand look at missionary work on the field. "We cannot neglect the fact that 41 of our present 74 missionaries went on short-term missions trips," Morgan reflected. "This shows we are getting a 55% long-term return on our short-term participation."



Executive Director Elizabeth Hodges rejoiced over \$900,000 given by the 4,000 members of Women Nationally Active for Christ in the past two years—\$419,000 in 2014. In addition, women gave \$45,000 to the Steward Provision Closet in cash gifts, gift cards, and supplies, making it possible to share provisions with more than 100 North American and international missionary families in the past year.

WNAC awarded six college scholarships in 2014-15. Two Indian pastoral students (names withheld for security reasons) received \$1,775 from the Cleo Pursell Foreign Student Scholarship. Four additional Dr. Mary R. Wisheart scholarships of \$1,000 were awarded to female students at each Free Will Baptist college. Recipients include: Briana Hurley (Welch), Blake Braishier (Hillsdale), Angie Fuller (California), and Rebecca Collier (Southeastern).

The department helped underwrite the cost of installing new bathrooms at the seminary in Altimira, Mexico; and paid for improvements to the seminary in Chamé, Panama. They sent \$3,000 to help construct and outfit a Feminine Health Center in Cotê d'Ivoire, West Africa, and sent \$1,000 to the hospital in Doropo to help rebuild and refurbish the hospital after a recent fire. Director Hodges announced three upcoming retreats: the Flourish national retreat in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, September 3-5, and two Shine! regional retreats for 12 to 18-year-old girls, moms, and youth leaders. The retreats were made possible by the pilot grant program at FWB Foundation, which provided \$7,500 toward expenses. The first Shine! retreat will be hosted by Fairview FWB Church, Spartanburg, South Carolina, October 23. The second will be held at First FWB Church, North Little Rock, Arkansas, November 21. Learn more: [www.WNAC.org](http://www.WNAC.org).

After being honored by the board, outgoing Director Ray Lewis (pictured below with board member Jack Daniel) thanked the denomination for the opportunity to serve 32 years with the Board of Retirement.



He joined the organization in 1983, serving under directors Herman Hersey and Bill Evans before becoming director himself in 2005, when the Board separated from the Foundation. Lewis will complete his duties December 31.

During his years in the office, assets grew from \$3 million to more than \$56 million and from 735 participants to 2,700. This growth continued again in 2014, with \$2.7 million in contributions, 44 new members, and less than 1% in operational expenses.



**Free Will Baptist Foundation**

This has been a momentous year for Free Will Baptist Foundation, according to Director David Brown, with record growth of \$8.4 million, bringing total assets to more than \$60 million, up 76% since 2008.

The department piloted a grant program in 2015, using realized gains from investments to award \$75,000 to six national departments and two national commissions. This grant program will continue, with more than \$5.1 million in the grant pool if all holdings were liquidated.

In cooperation with Cornerstone Estate Planning, the Foundation has helped 870 families plan their estates. While the Foundation does not break even on this program, Brown reminded listeners, "This is not a money-making venture. We want the program to be offered as a service to our members. We may see great returns in time as they remember Free Will Baptist ministries in their estates."

"It bothers me deeply to hear people say Free Will Baptists are done as a denomination," Brown concluded. "No! We're not done! And in many instances, we are just getting started...Sure, we face many challenges, but God has gone with us in the past, and He will go with us as we face the challenges ahead."

**I. WHEREAS**, the Executive Office has successfully planned and provided another encouraging national convention; and

**WHEREAS**, all our national departments have enlightened us with their respective reports; and **WHEREAS**, the Michigan State Association and its State Office Coordinator Ron Helms, moderator; Gene Norris, promotional secretary; their staff; and volunteers, have generously hosted this 2015 convention:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that this body shows its appreciation by a rising vote of thanks.

**II. WHEREAS**, the United States Supreme Court has declared that the states may not deprive same-sex couples the fundamental right to marriage and must recognize lawful same-sex marriages in other States; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Association of Free Will Baptists continues to denounce homosexuality and adultery as sinful, unchristian, and already condemned by God in His Word; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Association of Free Will Baptists continues to believe in a Biblical definition of marriage that "Both Scripture and nature as designed by God affirm the life-long, covenantal union of one man, being male as created by God, and one woman, being female as created by God, in a one-flesh relationship;" and

**WHEREAS**, the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution grants citizens the freedom to voice support of or opposition to issues that concern us, whether they be issues of law, morality, society, education, or economy; and

**WHEREAS**, our sense of moral obligation and evangelistic responsibility forbids us to remain silent on issues so paramount, so eminently threatening to the moral fabric of our nation; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Association of Free Will Baptists recognizes that we all struggle with sin; be it therefore

**RESOLVED, THAT THE DELEGATES TO THE** National Association of Free Will Baptists, convening in Grand Rapids, Michigan, July 19-22, 2015, reaffirm the Biblical definition of marriage as occurring only between one man and one woman, and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that we declare marriage to be sacred and between one who is born male and one who is born female, that we adamantly oppose any redefinition of marriage; the sanction of marriage counterfeits, such as civil unions; or the legalization of same-sex marriage; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that we wholly support the time-proven institution of traditional marriage as the single best arrangement for raising children and forming citizens as opposed to the radical and unacceptable alternative of same-sex marriage; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that we commit ourselves to pray for and support legislative and legal efforts to oppose the legalization of same-sex unions; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be sent to our nation's President and members of Congress, either by regular or electronic mail; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that local Free Will Baptist churches be strongly encouraged to adopt a policy statement about marriage and human sexuality that will serve both to express forthrightly the church's position on the issues and to protect the church and its ministerial staff in the event of potential legal challenges; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that all the bodies in the Free Will Baptist denomination that play a role in the examination, licensing, and ordination of ministers be urged to include instruction and careful questioning on the issues involved in homosexuality and same-sex unions as part of the process to ensure that only those candidates who are in complete agreement with the Appendix to Chapter IV, Section 1, of the Free Will Baptist Treatise, as adopted in July 2008, are licensed or ordained to preach, and so to perform marriages, as Free Will Baptist clergy; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that regardless of how our motives are demonized, we reaffirm our commitment to pray for and evangelize those who are enslaved in the homosexual culture, expressing our mission: that all people be saved by faith in Jesus Christ our Lord, and teaching them to separate from the immorality of this present world and its coming judgment, and that our churches will provide an environment that welcomes people who struggle with sexual sin, seeking to love all people in Jesus' name, pointing them toward Christ's power to forgive and heal.

Resolution Committee:

Steve Trail, (AL), Chairman, Brian Williams (NY), Allen West (MI), Eddie Moody (NC), Jackson Watts (MO)