

**THE**



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# INFORMER

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

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## SC FWB Disaster Relief

### 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Men's Retreat October 22, 2016



Event will be held in Turbeville SC. From I-95 take exit 35 east on HWY 378 toward Myrtle Beach go approx. 6 miles through Turbeville and location will be on the right 1st past Turbeville Children's Home. From HWY 378 go approx. 15 miles past Lake City on 378 just after Turbeville City Limits, the location will be on your left.

SCFWB Disaster Relief  
116p Atkinson St  
Turbeville, SC 29162  
Phone: 843-657-2091  
E-mail: [chris@scfwb.com](mailto:chris@scfwb.com)  
<http://www.scfwb.com/ministries/disaster-relief/>

Our Guest Speaker is Rev Tim Larrimore. (Pastor at Liberty FWB Church Lancaster, former SC Highway Patrolman) He will be sharing his testimony, and speaking from the standpoint of helping people in emergency situations.

*His hands in disastrous times*

Registration: 9:30 AM  
Start Time: 10:00 AM  
Cost: \$10.00 per person

#### Events Include

- Chain Saw Certification
- Pileau/Chicken Bog Cook Off
- Obstacle Course
- First Aid
- Preaching
- Equipment Demonstrations
- Prizes awarded for competitions.
- Much More!

More information coming soon. Participation in Competitions is completely voluntary



**Fall Youth Retreat  
PRICE IS REDUCED!!  
\$100 per Person**

We are excited to announce plans for our fall youth retreat "GLOW IN THE DARK" with Preacher Wesley Campbell. It will be back in MYRTLE BEACH on Friday November 4th through Saturday November 5th, 2016, at Garden City Chapel and Retreat Center...near Garden City Pier. We have finalized the details of accommodations and the events for Saturday.

The price HAS BEEN LOWERED TO \$100 per person, This includes lodging, 2 meals, t-shirt, and the events on Saturday. The price is for all adult chaperones and all youth.

AGES 12-18. We need all information and deposits by October 21st, 2016! The application/registration forms and more details are posted at [scfwb.com](http://scfwb.com) website under youth ministries .

If you have any questions please contact Preacher Teddy Rabon at [\(843\)-520-6407](tel:843-520-6407). We are looking forward to a GREAT time in the Lord,



National Master's Men recently donated a brand new 16' dual axle cargo trailer to the SCFWB Disaster Relief Board. Glory!



Recap of the National Association of Free Will Baptists meeting in Kansas City, MO. July 17-20, 2016

When delegates gathered at the first Free Will Baptist “national convention” in 1935 they surely never imagined that 80 years later, the convention choir would be larger than the attendance at that first meeting...not to mention live-streamed services or online pre-registration.

Yet today’s Free Will Baptists have more in common with those early denominational pioneers than it might seem. Despite the dramatic changes the denomination (and the world) has seen in the past eight decades, Free Will Baptists remain true to their core values and theology, preach the Word faithfully, and continue to take the gospel to those who have never heard.

The faithful example set by those early Free Will Baptists has continued down through the generations. In spite of challenges and changes, the words of this year’s theme hymn echo the sentiment of Free Will Baptists through the intervening decades: “Our God will not be moved; our God will never change; our God will reign forevermore!”

This year’s convention theme, “The Path to Revival,” centered around 2 Chronicles 7:14: “If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”



Reports at the National Meeting.

**Executive Office:** Executive Secretary Keith Burden acknowledged 2015 was a year of significant change and challenges as the office continues to adjust to steadily declining, and in some cases, inadequate financial resources after a 24% drop in Together Way giving over the past decade. In addition, the evolving meeting planning industry has forced the office to rethink and retool the annual convention. Despite these financial concerns, Burden thanked faithful supporters for their generosity.

He pointed to achievements reached this year: the production of ONE Magazine, which continues to thrive, reaching 55,000 families nationwide; an update to the Treatise; the development and implementation of the Rekindle program for restoring church health; and the production of a training DVD to help churches prepare for and react to emergencies.

Burden reminded listeners, “In a world of constant change, we follow a changeless Savior and preach the eternal Word. The future of our churches and denomination rests squarely on these unalterable facts.” He urged his listeners to pray for wisdom in leadership and for churches to develop a heart for giving.

**Free Will Baptist Foundation-** Foundation Director David Brown noted a loss of more than \$150,000 in 2015 due to late-year market transactions and expenses related to the estate-planning ministry (an expected loss to be corrected by operational adjustments). On the positive side, Brown pointed to an increase of \$1.4 million in assets and a \$6 million net positive in Money Management Trusts.

He cheerfully informed delegates the first half of 2016 “looks really good,” with total assets up almost \$8 million, nearing \$72 million. This increase is especially impressive considering a \$1.7 million withdrawal by Welch College to fund construction of the new campus. Based on current projections, the Foundation will not only enjoy record-setting increases in 2016, but will make grants available to Free Will Baptist ministries again next year.

**Board of Retirement:** During his report to convention delegates, first-year director John Brummitt noted this was a year of transition for the department. Following the change in leadership after director Ray Lewis retired in December 2015 (only the third director in the board’s 47-year history), the department hired two new staff members: Joshua Eidson, accounting administrator, and Chris Compton, communications officer. These new team members were instrumental in re-launching the website ([boardofretirement.com](http://boardofretirement.com)), improving reporting procedures, and advancing financial education and resources.

Despite a downturn in the market during the last quarter of 2015 (resulting in a negative annual return), Brummitt reported normal growth for the board in 2015, with 57 new enrollees, \$2.6 million in contributions, and operational expenses well under budget. He urged listeners not to delay in saving for retirement, but to start immediately, because the long-term benefits outweigh the short-term sacrifices.

**North American Ministries:** Director David Crowe told delegates, “North American Ministries has many exciting things to report.” Fifty-three families are planting churches in 25 states (not including 42 Hispanic church plants). Crowe honored five churches for reaching self-supporting status during the past year and announced four new church plants in 2016, and four planned in 2017. He celebrated the work in Portsmouth, Virginia, where 264 attended the launch service, with an average of 100 in attendance. Crowe rejoiced that three new churches—two in Arizona and one in Tennessee—are averaging more than 200 in worship weekly.

The church revitalization program continues to expand and thrive under the direction of Jim McComas while Master’s Men, under the leadership of Ken Akers, remains busy with disaster relief, outreach events, construction projects, and sports fellowship. Free Will Baptist chaplain ministry continues to be a vital outreach to military men and women.

Crowe also reported that the second Power Conference, held in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, May 30-31, was well attended and well received. He announced the conference will return to Branson, Missouri, in May 2017, to explore the theme, “Founded in the Past; Faithful to the Present; Focused on the Future.”

Crowe noted significant setbacks in the department's financial report, primarily related to doubtful and devaluated accounts in the Church Extension Loan Fund (CELF). He explained that significant steps have been taken in CELF operations to account for these losses, with good results. Crowe thanked Free Will Baptists for their continuing generous support of the department—\$4.3 million in 2015—and thanked his staff for their “servant spirit, commitment, and excellent work.”

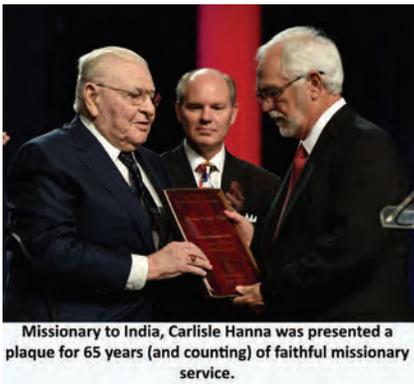
**International Missions:** Clint Morgan, director of Free Will Baptist International Missions, pointed to several important decisions made by the IM Board this year: Joel and Lydie Teague (France), Chris and Tori Sargent (Spain), and Doug and Miriam Bishop (Japan) were approved as career missionaries. Daniel Reeves was appointed to a two-year internship in France, and the Mission formed strategic partnerships with Village of Hope (Uganda) and Jungle Kids for Christ (Ecuador).

Most notably, however, the board made the decision to return to a designated funding system. A general funding system was instituted in 2008 to get missionaries on the field more quickly, prevent them from being recalled due to red accounts, to avoid them being held state-side to raise funds, and to fully fund partnerships with mature fields. The decision to return to designated funding was made after analysis revealed that not only were these goals not achieved, but IM also experienced a cumulative loss of approximately \$7.6 million in donations since 2008. As a result, in 2015, IM made the difficult decision to reduce personnel and reduce field budgets drastically.

Rather than continue a system that obviously was not working, the board voted to return to designated giving. Morgan urged pastors and leaders to open their churches to missionaries, teach their people the needs of the world, model obedient giving, and pour support into missionaries and ministries they are led to support. CFO Rob Conley echoed his plea, stating: “I want to be abundantly clear...the funding method is not the issue. Our singular financial objective is to maximize missionaries' ability to share the gospel, win souls, disciple believers, and see vibrant churches growing. Free Will Baptist International Missions is not a funding system. We exist to labor with the body of Christ to fulfill the Great Commission.”

Morgan thanked churches for participating in the World Missions Offering (WMO) and challenged every FWB church to participate in 2017. Through the end of June, 2016 gifts totaled \$421,159, roughly \$60,000 lower than 2015. He noted that the changes to funding affect the allocation of WMO funds. The money will now go to strategic partners—mature fields such as India, Panama, Cuba, Cote d'Ivoire, and a few like-minded organizations with which IM has a strong theological affinity and ministry focus. Remaining funds will be directed to the general fund.

He praised God for milestones reached in 2015—1,031 new converts, 1,112 baptisms, and 26 new churches—and shared five goals to reach by 2020: 1) increase cash reserves to 20%; 2) increase donor churches from 1,116 to 1,339; 3) increase the number of missionaries from 74 to 89; 4) increase international believers from 27,371 to 32,845; and 5) increase new Free Will Baptist churches from 867 to 1,040.



Missionary to India, Carlisle Hanna was presented a plaque for 65 years (and counting) of faithful missionary service.



Retired Missionary Mirial Gainer was presented a plaque for her 40 years of service in Japan.



Aejandro Johnson (After having served in Truth and Peace) represented Missionaries Tim and Kristi Johnson (Spain).

**Women Nationally Active for Christ:** Director Elizabeth Hodges noted that 2015 was a historical year for the organization, with two regional conferences for 12- to 18-year-old girls, their mothers, and their youth leaders. Both conferences ministered to 114 girls and 95 moms and youth leaders from 11 states and 36 churches. She announced the 2016 Shine! conference to be held November 12, 2016, at Heritage FWB Church, Columbus, Ohio. Visit [wnac.org](http://wnac.org) to register.

WNAC established the International Student Scholarship in 2015 to assist foreign students studying at a Free Will Baptist college in the United States. The first scholarship was awarded to Keren Delgado, a freshman at Welch College. The Pursell Foreign Student Scholarship was awarded to four pastoral students in southern India while Wisheart Scholarships were awarded to Allison Lewis (Welch); Courtney Anderson (Randall); and Tori Jefferis (Southeastern).

WNAC members also gave \$505,200 to missions and ministry causes in 2015, along with \$44,700 to the Steward Provision Closet. They raised \$17,000 to help underwrite the cost of a national retreat for Free Will Baptist women in Côte d'Ivoire, West Africa, making it possible for Ivorian women to meet in a retreat center for the first time. Hodges noted that WNAC will help underwrite a Cuban national retreat in 2017, raising \$12,000 for 400 Cuban ladies. Representatives from WNAC will travel to Cuba to attend the retreat. In closing, Hodges announced “Praising Him” as the WNAC theme for the coming year, as women turn to the Psalms for strength and encouragement.

**Welch College :** President Matt Pinson noted that Welch College celebrates 75 years of ministry in 2017. Yet the mission of the college remains unchanged: to educate leaders to serve Christ, His Church, and His world through biblical thought and life.

The college continues to receive high reviews for excellence from both outgoing students and accrediting and evaluating organizations. Pinson emphatically declared this reflects the truth “that an emphasis on community and spiritual formation need not be divorced from academic excellence.” He noted that while the college continues to offer 40 programs of study, 65% of male students are ministers.



He described 2015-2016 as a “banner year” for the college, with the sale and transition of the campus, increased enrollment, and a healthy financial picture. The Building on the Legacy relocation campaign has already raised \$8 million dollars, with \$6.5 million in cash received. Pinson announced a new goal of \$14.4 million, which will allow the college to build a chapel and be debt free in five years.

He celebrated the start of a new master’s degree program in 2016, the M.A. in Theology and Ministry, with students enrolled from across the country. He introduced a new book recently published by the college: *Sexuality, Gender, and the Church*. The volume is now available for purchase: [order@welch.edu](mailto:order@welch.edu).

**Randall House Publications:** Director Ron Hunter acknowledged a significant financial shortfall—\$322,000 in 2014 and \$455,000 in 2015—for a total loss of \$777,000. According to CFO Michael Lytle, these losses result from the cost of producing a new line of curriculum, losses from Vertical Three events, depreciation, and ordering habits of some churches. The shortfall has been addressed by sharp budget adjustments (\$600,000 in 2016) and reduction in staff.

Citing a recent LifeWay study, Hunter described the losses as a reflection of the health of the church-at-large, with only 13% of churches reporting an increase in giving since the economic recession. He cited a trend in the reduction of denominational publishing (38% fewer employees since 2000). In comparison, Randall House has only dropped by one employee during that same time frame.

What is the answer to the funding dilemma? Hunter showed how 10-20% of the churches can affect a \$150,000 to \$300,000 dollar loss when one or a combination of the following occur: not ordering summer curriculum, ordering from multiple publishers, and not ordering at-home student pieces. He reminded delegates that Randall House has five major initiatives: 1) book publishing; 2) Vertical Three Conference; 3) the D6 Conference; 4) training; and 5) all curriculum. He warned listeners that while Randall House has taken steps to alleviate the financial strain, without the support of the denomination, the publisher faces difficult decisions. Hunter further challenged the denomination to identify one goal everyone could rally around while still valuing our diversity. He suggested that goal might be the health of Free Will Baptist churches. Nearly 50% of his report discussed the urgency needed for change denomination-wide and revealed a few consequences should it not occur. To read a copy of his transcript, download it at [RandallHouse.com/report2016](http://RandallHouse.com/report2016).

He celebrated the ongoing expansion of D6, from growing numbers in the U.S. to Norway, France, India, Malaysia, and the Philippines. These international conferences require little investment on the part of Randall House but have expanded the ministry’s impact globally. In closing, Hunter honored outgoing board members Tim Eaton (2004-2016) and current chairman Tim Owen (2002-2016).

**The Music Commission** continues its ongoing partnership with the Executive Office to provide music for the national convention, according to Doug Little, commission chairman. During the past year, the group also explored the feasibility of a hymnbook project, offered workshops at the convention, and began work toward a website to be launched later this year. The commission is also working to identify rising musicians in churches and colleges across the denomination.

**The Media Commission** continues its focus of providing live streaming from the national convention, according to Travis Penn, chairman. That role expanded this year to include directors’ reports from the business session. The commission is exploring the possibility of live streaming the services translated into Spanish next year. The commission has also placed a greater emphasis on outreach through social media and provided workshops at the national convention. The group also partnered with the Executive Office to promote Check-ins for a Cause, a Facebook funding program that will result in Bibles printed in the Kazakh language.



**The Historical Commission** noted the passing of Jack Williams, member of the commission for nearly 40 years. During his time on the board, Jack contributed to many important historical projects including The 50-Year Record, History of the Free Will Baptist State Associations, and the Free Will Baptist Heritage Series of pamphlets. In 2015-2016, the commission continued its push to develop a comprehensive Free Will Baptist digital collection by processing, scanning, and posting state and district minutes. The collection may be accessed at [FWBHistory.com](http://FWBHistory.com) or at [WelchLibrary.wordpress.com](http://WelchLibrary.wordpress.com). At its March 2016 meeting, the commission also renewed its decision to help furnish the new historical room at Welch College.

**The Commission for Theological Integrity** sponsored the nineteenth annual Theological Symposium, October 26-27, 2015, according to chairman Matt Pinson. The 2016 Symposium will meet October 24-25, at Welch College in Nashville, Tennessee, with the theme, “The Theological Legacy of F. Leroy Forlines.” Papers are currently being accepted for consideration. The commission presented the latest issue of *Integrity: A Journal of Christian Thought*, available at [FWBTheology.com](http://FWBTheology.com). This website continues to expand, with regular theological articles and regular news about commission events and resources.





**2016 National Association of Free Will Baptists  
Convention Overview**

**Registration:**

Board members – 59  
 Local church delegates – 47  
 NAFWB attendees – 2,585  
 Ordained deacons – 91  
 Ordained ministers – 471  
 State delegates – 52  
 NYC – 3,186

Total Attendees\* 4,192 (\*Note: Many attendees register for both conventions.)

**People who Live Streamed the services via internet:**

Total Visitors – 6,328  
 Unique Visitors – 3,895

**2017 Approved Budgets:**

|                          |                     |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Executive Office -       | \$787,650           |
| FWB Foundation -         | \$1,273,600         |
| Home Missions -          | \$5,000,000         |
| International Missions - | \$6,900,000         |
| Retirement -             | \$568,900           |
| Randall House -          | \$4,797,500         |
| Welch College –          | \$6,278,713         |
| WNAC -                   | \$266,000           |
| Theological Commission - | \$8,100             |
| Historical Commission -  | \$5,045             |
| Media Commission -       | \$5,200             |
| Music Commission -       | \$4,775             |
| <b>Total –</b>           | <b>\$25,895,483</b> |

In other business, delegates passed resolutions affirming biblical gender identity, reaffirming the denomination’s stand against alcohol and addictive substances, and thanking the Missouri State Association for hosting the convention.

**Positions elected in 2016**

Welch College - 2022  
 Michael Armstrong (OH)  
 Brad Ryan (IL)  
 Wayne Miracle (GA)

International Missions - 2022

Cameron Lane (AR)  
 Will Harmon (AR)  
 Rodney Yerby (AL)

Randall House - 2022

Darin Gibbs (NC)  
 Timothy York (NY)  
 Jay Baines (VA)

WNAC - 2022

Pam Hackett (SC)  
 Jonda Patton (KY)  
 Lee Ann Wilfong (MO)



Delegates listen to reports, approve budgets, elect board members, and vote on any needed business items.

Theological Commission

2021- W. Jackson Watts (MO)

Historical Commission

2017 – Willie Martin (GA)

2021 – Jeff Cockrell (TN)

Music Commission 2021- Donnie Burke (CO)

Media Commission 2021- Daniel Edwards (IN)

Executive Committee - 2019

David Taylor (AR)

Danny Williams (AL)

David Shores (IL)

General Officers

Moderator: Tim York (TN)

Assistant Moderator: William Smith (GA)

Clerk: Randy Bryant (FL)

Assistant Clerk: Ernie Lewis (IL)



Missionaries Jonathan and Amy Postlewaite were able to spend some time with family at the National Meeting before they flew back to Bulgaria on August, 3rd . They will be starting a new work in Plevan, Bulgaria. Your prayers and support are greatly appreciated.



Pastor Tim Hackett, and wife Pam recently celebrated 25 years of ministry at Fairview FWB Church, Spartanburg. We thank them for their work at Fairview and in other State and National FWB Ministries.



Pine Grove FWB Church (Jefferson S.C.) had appreciation day for Mrs. Joyce Brasington, wife of pastor George Brasington, on Sunday, September 4, 2016. The church gave her a gift and then continued the celebration with a church fellowship dinner.



Students at New Prospect FWB Church School were welcomed to the new school year with enlarged rooms which were freshly painted with new carpet. They appreciated SCS helping set up their computer labs and expect a great year in the Lord.

**\*Central Conference Meeting** – Sat, October 08, 2016, Mullins Marion FWB Church, at 9AM

**\*Beaver Creek Conference Meeting** – Thursday October 27, 2016 Lockhart FWB Church 5PM

**\*South Carolina Conference Meeting** – Friday October 7th, 2016 at 5:30PM At Black River FWB Church, Andrews

**\*True life Conference Meeting** – Saturday October 15, 2016 at 9:30AM

**\*Eastern Conference Meeting** – TBA



Florence First FWB Church (Pastor Lee Patrick) held a ground breaking ceremony for their new addition on Sunday, August 28, 2016. This new building (a two story building, equipped with an elevator) will house the high school as well as a music room and a big children's area. This will allow the present sanctuary to be enlarged to facilitate Church growth. Praise the Lord for churches that are continuing to grow and expand for the Lord.



The theme for youth Camp this year was "Heroes". Teen Camp had nearly 70 campers in attendance to hear speaker Tommy Swindol

Junior Camp had approximately 120 in attendance with Steve Greenwood as speaker

Your vote cannot be counted if it is not cast! "The powers that be are ordained of God" (Rom 13:1) so He expects His people to pray and then participate in the voting process.





On September 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016 the ladies of North Carolina and South Carolina met at the White Oak Conference Center in Winsboro SC for the Annual Ladies Retreat. There were 113 ladies present for this uplifting time in the Lord! Our theme this year was "From Clay Pots to Pearls".

Our speaker was Izabella McMillon. Izabella is from Romania, and was an Operation Christmas Child shoebox recipient at the age of 13. She currently lives in Charlotte NC with her husband and 2 children. She spoke from 2 Cor. 4:7. She said "We are all just cracked pots, but the power that lives in us makes us a treasure." She challenged us to spend more time in



God's word when she spoke of the time she found a bible under the floor in her house at 7 years old. She told of how she and her brother would rush home from school and hurry to get everything finished they needed to do so that they could read the stories before their parents would return home from work. Through this illustration she made us wonder when was the last time that we would try to get everything out of the way so we could be alone with God in His word. She quoted Spurgeon when he said "A bible that is falling apart usually belongs to someone who isn't."

Throughout our time together she shared her testimony of how God made Himself real to her. She started going to an underground church where the pastor read stories from the bible. Over the span of several years she had many questions for the pastor. Through the winter of the year that she was 13 Izabella asked him how she could pray for snow. He told her that God always hears and answers our prayers. She was very disappointed the next morning when she awoke to no snow because she had prayed late into the night. She went back to the pastor thinking that she was doing something wrong. He told her that God does always answer our prayers, but it isn't always the way we imagined it would be. She continued to pray for snow; giving God an ultimatum that if there was not snow by Christmas she was finished praying. Well, needless to say there was no snow on that Christmas. A few weeks later Izabella woke to people in town running to get something. This was a big deal in communist Romania. When she realized they weren't going to the market, but that trucks were bringing something special she waited several hours. Finally, the trucks arrived and they began to pass out the boxes. When she received her box there was a snowglobe in it. She had never seen one before. One of the volunteers told her to shake it. When she saw the snow that would never disappear; she knew that God was confirming that He was real! He heard her prayer, and this snow was a testament that she could carry with her throughout her life as a reminder that God always answers our prayers!

Elizabeth Hodges gave greetings from WNAC. She had the opportunity to go to Africa last year for their Ladies Retreat. She spoke of wonderful experiences their ladies had getting into the ocean for the first, receiving gifts, and spending time together hearing from the Lord. We had a birthday celebration for her Friday night. She sends her love and appreciation for all the cards, words of encouragement, and gifts.



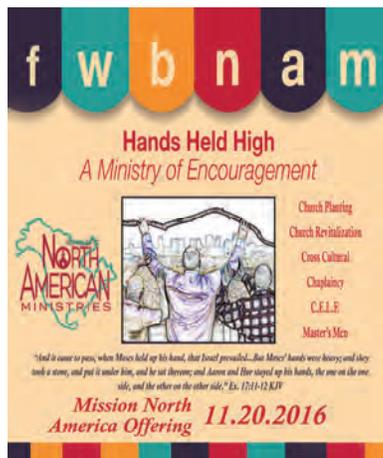
Samaritan's Purse volunteers were with us, and we were able to collect 133 shoeboxes to send throughout the world! The shipping cost was covered by our SCWAC. We had a special time of prayer and dedication over the boxes.

This was a wonderful time for our ladies to be refreshed in the Lord and reconnect with one another.



Misty Todd  
SCFWB State Office

South Carolina State Association of Free Will Baptists  
 Chris Todd, Executive Secretary  
 P O Box 9, Turbeville, SC 29162



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. 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. Bennie Turner, Manning - (803) 473-0286
- Rev. John Cody, Rock Hill – (803) 323-7092
- Rev. Donald Davis – (864) 998-4965
- Rev. Kenny Haselden – (843) 731-4842



## SCFWB Announces partnership with Protect My Ministry

Proper Screening of Church employees and volunteers can help to both protect your ministry from problems and defer liability, but it can be a difficult and confusing process. That's why the SCFWB State Association has teamed up with Protect My Ministry, to provide churches and Organizations which are members of the State Association to get background checks on their employees and volunteers at group prices.



Go to <http://www.scfwb.com/back-ground-checks/> and follow the prompts, to start screening today. it is recommended that you give them a call BEFORE signing up: 800-319-5581. There are several technical and package options which can be helpful and it's always easier to get it right the first time than it is to fix it later.