

The Informer



The Informer is the official bi-monthly publication of the South Carolina State Association of Free Will Baptists. Address all correspondence to Ron Moore, Editor, Post Office Box 13266, Florence, South Carolina, 29504 or call (803) 662-5010; FAX 662-5054; Email SCFWB@AOL.

Florence First FWB Church To Host State Association

First Free Will Baptist Church, Florence, will host the fifty-sixth annual session of the South Carolina State Association of Original Free Will Baptists February 26 and 27, 1998. Speakers for the two-day event will include:



Dr. Melvin Worthington
National Executive Secretary



Rev. Joe McKnight
Darlington FWB Bible Church



Rev. James Sanders
Chester First FWB Church



Rev. Sherwood Lee
State Moderator



Rev. Tony Miles
Mt. Trolley FWB Church



Rev. Murrell Young
Olanta FWB Church

Rev. Edward Hinson (photograph not available), pastor of Greer FWB Church, will also speak during the program.

Please make a special note that the General Board will meet on Wednesday, February 25, at 10 A.M.

A program with directions and possible motel accommodations will be sent to pastors with the 1998 Digest of Reports about two weeks prior to the meeting.

"MOORE" THOUGHTS *From the Editor*

Praise God for all His wonderful blessings in 1998! Both the Promotional Office and the bookstore finished the year with all bills paid and a few dollars left in the bank. Our churches gave through the South Carolina Plan of Support over \$615,000 to various local, state, national and foreign ministries. That shattered our goal of \$500,000.

For the first time in years, **all South Carolina missionary accounts are in the black.** This is due in part to the increased giving generated by the newly adopted South Carolina Foreign Missions Plan of Support. Though we are under our goal for 1997, interest is building and many individuals, churches and auxiliary ministries of the church are making new commitments or are increasing past commitments. I am confident that we will reach our state goal of "2000 shares by 2000" and that we will achieve full support for South Carolina missionaries.

We are looking forward to sharing the details of these and other blessings with you during the State Meeting. Let me say here, however, that all of us involved in ministry from the local conference level to foreign missions realize that God has used you as His hand of blessing. So, on behalf of all of us, thank you for your willingness to be used by Him. We love and appreciate you all. May God richly bless each of you!

**Rev. Mitchell Davis
With The Lord**

Rev. Mitchell Winford Davis, 76, of High Point FWB Church, Lancaster, passed away Sunday, November 30, 1997. Brother Davis was a member of the Beaver Creek Association for many years and received a pastors certificate from Moody Bible Institute. He served the following churches as pastor: Lowell FWB Church in Gastonia, NC, South Avenue (Canaan) FWB Church in Lancaster, SC, Pineville FWB Church in Pineville, NC, Clover FWB Church in Clover, SC, First FWB Church in Spartanburg, SC, Grace FWB Church in Fort Mill, SC, and Williams Hill FWB Church in Hemingway, SC. In recent years he served as associate pastor to Rev. Stuart Snow at High Point.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, December 2, 1997 at 2 PM from the High Point FWB Church by the Rev. Stuart Snow, Rev. Tommy Bryson, Rev. Jason Coley and the Rev. George Brasington.



Rev. Davis and his wife Annie Mae

Rev. Davis is survived by his spouse, Annie Mae Warren Davis; four daughters, Mrs. Alice Sullivan and Mrs. Kathy Helms of Rock Hill, Mrs. Joyce Faulkenberry and Mrs. Linda Snipes of Lancaster; his step-mother, Mrs. Minnie Stiles; a brother; eight sisters; seven grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Brother Davis not only served his denomination well, according to Rev. Snow, he was a tremendous blessing to both the High Point Church and to his personal ministry. Indeed, Rev. Davis will be missed. Our prayers are with his family and his wife Annie Mae.

**Timothy Larrimore
Licensed to Preach**

The Central Association licensed Timothy Earl Larrimore to preach in October 1997. Brother Larrimore was saved under the minister of Rev. Earl Hanna at Liberty FWB Church, Orangeburg, in September 1986.



Rev. Larrimore is pictured above with his wife, the former Jowand Mincey and his two children, Heather (10) and Timothy (7). The Larrimores reside in Conway and are members of White Savannah FWB Church.

If your church has need of Brother Larrimore's services, you may contact him at (803) 397-0502.

**Converse Calls
Rev. Randall White
As New Pastor**

Converse FWB Church, Converse, SC, called Rev. Randall White as their new pastor in June 1997. Brother White was saved in 1990 under the ministry of the late Rev. Wayne Price, former pastor of Converse. He was called to preach in 1995 and ordained 1996.

Before assuming his duties as pastor, Brother White served the Converse church in a variety of capacities: youth director, Sunday School teacher, and deacon.

Brother White is married to the former Patricia Fowler. The couple lives in Cowpens with their two children, Dustin (7) and Brittany (4).

**Mike Bishop
New Associate At Gilead**



Gilead FWB Church in Lake City called Mike Bishop as associate pastor in July 1997. Brother Mike's home church is Goshen FWB Church in Mt. Holly, NC. He was saved under the ministry of the late Rev. Bennie Turner.

Brother Mike is a 1996 graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College, Nashville, Tennessee. He came to Gilead from the Goshen church where he served in many different capacities. Among his other responsibilities at Gilead, Brother Mike's primary ministry will be working with the youth.

**Woman's Auxiliaries
To Meet**

Ladies, it is time to get ready for the District and State Auxiliary meetings! This years schedules are . . .

Eastern District February 14
Williams Hill, Hemingway
Speaker: Rev. Mark Barber

Central District February 21
Oak Grove, Conway
Speakers: Tim and Kristy Hanna

South Carolina District . February 28
Mt. Elon, Pamplico

Beaver Creek District March 7
High Point, Lancaster

State WNAC March 21
New Vision, Hemingway

All auxiliary meetings will begin promptly at 10:00 AM. Please allow at least 15 minutes for registration prior to the beginning of the sessions.



Two South Carolina students will serve in summer ministries abroad, according to Mr. Tom McCullough, college mission teacher. **Kimberlee Scott**, Johnsonville, will serve in Japan. **John Hayes**, Lake City, will serve in Russia. **Walter Lee, Jr.**, Florence, on Dean's "A" Honor Roll. **Kristie Coker**, Turbeville, **Darla Kirby**, Timmonsville, and **Kimberlee Scott**, Johnsonville, made the "B" Dean's List. Congratulations!

Spring Welcome Days are scheduled for March 26-28. Speakers for the **1998 Bible Conference**, March 8-12, have been set. They are **Dr. Lewis Drummond**, Professor of Evangelism and Church Growth at Beeson Divinity School, **Rev. Nathan Ruble**, Executive Secretary of the Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists, and **Dr. Tim York**, pastor of Heritage Temple FWB Church in Cannonsburg, Kentucky.

OPPS!

Rev. Jody Wynn was saved under the ministry of **Rev. Paul Clayton** in 1983. We errantly stated that it was under **Rev. Paul Collins'** ministry. Sorry, Brother Jody!

Rev. John Suttles With the Lord

Rev. John Robert Suttles went to be with the Lord after several months of illness and funeral services were held at the Simpsonville First FWB Church. Special music for the service was provided by the church quartet. Messages were delivered by **Rev. Robert Travis**, pastor of the Simpsonville church, **Rev. Tom Suttles**, son of Brother John, and **Rev. Jack Elders**.

Rev. Suttles has served many South Carolina churches as pastor. They include **New Hope** in Enoree, **Williams Hill** in Hemingway, **Pine Grove** in Jefferson, **New Vision** in Hemingway, **First** in Greer, and most



recently, the **Woodruff FWB Church** in Woodruff.

Brother Suttles is survived by his wife of 44 years, **Mary Lou**, and six children, two of whom are preachers.



Mission Matters

Pioneer missionary **Mabel Willey** went to be with the Lord on Friday, January 16, 1998. Mrs. Willey was 92 years of age and had been in poor health for several months. She and her husband, **Tom ("Pop")**, were the **second missionaries** appointed under the newly organized National Association of Free Will Baptists in 1935. The couple served as missionaries to Panama before going to Cuba. As a result of political problems, they returned to Miami and worked with Cuban refugees for two years.

Bobby and **Geneva Poole** are rejoicing that the latest biopsy on their son **John's thyroid gland** was negative in regard to cancer. John is being

treated for hyperthyroidism and is improving. Praise the Lord!

Carlisle and **Marie Hanna** returned to India for another short term of ministry. They flew out of the Charleston airport on January 13 and expect to return sometime around August. Please continue praying for them, their ministry, and the Indian church. Pray especially for **Marie's** health as she continues to recover from a stroke.

Continue praying for **Tim** and **Kristy Johnson**, appointees to Spain, as they seek to raise support. They are praying that they will be able to go to the field this Fall.

Roll Call Sunday

March 29, 1998

Pray and Prepare
for the
Biggest Day Ever!

Brysons Express Appreciation

Rev. and Mrs. Tommy Bryson express their sincerest appreciation for the many calls, cards, prayers and love offerings on behalf of their son, **Joshua (18)**, who was recently hurt in a football accident. The injury severed the main artery in his leg and tore several leaders, ligaments and nerves. Josh has already had seven operations and at least two more are anticipated.

Pray not only for **Josh's** recovery, but pray for **Brother Tommy** as well. At this writing he is in the hospital suffering from blood clots.

Rev. Wilburn Beasley Seriously Ill

Pray for **Rev. Wilburn Beasley**, retired pastor of **Horse Branch FWB Church**, who at this writing is in **McLeod Hospital**, Florence, having suffered a serious stroke. Brother has served South Carolina Free Will Baptists well, holding positions on a variety of boards.

**Rev. and Mrs. Sam Truett
Honored for 30 Years of Ministry**



November 23, 1997 was a special day for Rev. and Mrs. Sam Truett. Faith Free Will Baptist Church in Darlington, where Brother Truett serves as pastor, honored them for thirty years of faithfulness in ministry. Family and friends gathered to celebrate the event. Dr. Melvin Worthington, Executive Secretary of the National Association, preached the morning message; Rev. Ron Moore, Promotional Director for the South Carolina State Association presented Brother Truett with a certificate of achievement; Bruce Woodham, deacon at Faith, read Scripture and presented gifts on behalf of the church; and, Chris Truett, son of Rev. and Mrs. Sam Truett and music minister at Bethel FWB Church, Kinston, NC, sang.

Most of Brother Truett's ministry has been in North Carolina. He spent 21 years at West Calvary in Smithfield. The remaining nine years have been in South Carolina: First Hartsville, Beulah, First Kingstree and Faith.

**Pee Dee Bible Institute
Holds Award Night**



First semester students with teachers

Pee Dee Bible Institute, sponsored by Southside Free Will Baptist Church in Darlington, held its annual Awards Night at Ward Street Café December 5, 1997. Naomi Player, Temple FWB Church, taught Music Appreciation and Rev. Leroy Lowey, pastor of Southside and director of the Institute, taught two courses: You and Your Bible and Evangelism.

**Darlington Churches Sponsor
60 Voice Choir**



Performance at First Church, Darlington

The Free Will Baptist Churches of Darlington (First, Faith, Bible, Southside and Temple) came together and formed a sixty voice mass choir and held two performances of the cantata "Joy In This Place." The first concert was given on December 14 at Faith FWB Church and the second on December 17 at First FWB Church. The choir was directed by Brother Seldon Buck, First Church. Rev. Mike McAuley (First) read the Scripture portions of the cantata. Feature soloist included Norma Gunter (First), Wendy McElveen (Faith) and Cameron Lloyd (Southside).

All who attended the concerts thoroughly enjoyed the fruit of these churches' hard work. We commend the members of the mass choir for their efforts and praise the Lord for the results.

St John Remodeled



St. John F.W.B. Church, Lake City, has just completed several major renovation projects. On the inside they replaced ceilings, doors, molding, chandeliers, carpet, reworked the altar and repainted the sanctuary. On the outside, they added tinted windows, vinyl siding and a new sign. In just over a year, the congregation has grown from 8 to 45 in attendance! Rev. Ricky Evans is pastor.