

The Official Publication of Arkansas Free Will Baptists

The Vision

THE VISION



January-February 2018

Volume 60 No. 1

Church News

Rolling Oaks--25th Anniversary

Pastor Kerry Gandy and the Rolling Oaks FWB Church celebrated their 25th anniversary on November 12, 2017. The day was filled with singing, testimonies, preaching, and fellowship.



Founding pastor Levan Hubbard shared about the church's beginning as a mission endeavor. Peggy Petray and Tena Buck (the first baptizee at Rolling Oaks) gave their testimonies to the difference the church had made in their lives and families.

Pastor Gandy challenged the church, from James 5:17-18, to stand with an Elijah-like boldness. The Mercy River Boys gave a mini-concert.

The day was made complete with a holiday dinner.



Sutton Church--150th Anniversary

A milestone that speaks of God's sustaining grace and the faithfulness of God's people was reached at the Sutton FWB Church on Sunday, November 19th. The church celebrated their 150th anniversary as they remembered God's faithfulness, and gave thanks for His many blessings.

Pastor Kevin Barnett and a full house of more than 400 remembered the past, and all the changes that have taken place; such as the name. The church began in 1867 as New



Hope. Both adult, youth, and teen choirs/ensembles sang. Former pastors, LD Johnson, Richard Bowers, and Randy Scott shared a few memories of their time at Sutton. Some other former pastors, as well as current members, shared their thoughts in multi-media presentations.

But the church's rich history was not the real focus; it was presented as the foundation for the future.



L-R: Randy Scott, L.D. Johnson, Richard Bowers, Kevin Barnett

Following the message by former pastor, Randy Scott, pastor Barnett challenged the church to push forward as new ministry opportunities present themselves, and continue the legacy of faithfulness to God.

New Youth Pastor

The Sutton FWB Church has announced their hiring of a new full-time youth pastor--Thomas Lovett. A native from Madison, Alabama, Lovett is a 2017 graduate from Welch College, with a degree in General Christian Ministry and a minor in Youth & Family Ministry.

Lovett served as an interm youth pastor at the Hendersonville FWB Church in Hendersonville, TN, before beginning his ministry at the Sutton Church in October.



Pulpits Filled:

Buddy Loyd--Oliver Springs FWB Church, Rudy

Gary Willett--First FWB Church, Crossett

Chuck Fitzgerald--Faith FWB, Jonesboro

Joel Kircher--CenterPoint FWB, Vilonia

(Sutton Church cont'd) As with all good homecoming / anniversary special events, the ladies of the Sutton Church served a generous holiday-themed meal.

May God's rich blessing continue to be upon this vibrant congregation in the Social Band District.

Church News, cont'd

Boulder Ridge--Celebration

With a bold vision, Pastor Doug Adkins has led the Bentonville FWB Church to relocate on 22 acres of land just north of their old location. On August 27, 2017 a dedication service was held and an official ribbon cutting ceremony opened the doors to the Boulder Ridge Fellowship.

Throughout this move, this Old Mt. Zion Association church adopted a to “honor the past,” “navigate the present,” and “forge the future.” Dr. Adkins, the church’s fourth pastor, also led the church to share their restart with the community by holding a September Grand Opening celebration with neighbors and friends.

The church membership believes their best days are before them, and encourages all to join them in this faith journey.



Friendship Church Homecoming

“Reflect ... Reacquaint ... Recommit” was the theme at Friendship FWB Church for their October 15, 2017 homecoming celebration. Pastor Michael Morrison led the church as they reflected on where they had been and what God had done to sustain them down through the years.

The service was also a time to reacquaint with many former members and friends who attended.

Finally, through music, testimonies, and preaching, a sense of recommitment was evident. The task of the church is not finished, there is more to be done.

Thank you Friendship FWB Church for your years of faithful service.



Little Missouri River Assn--ACTS 1:8 Dessert Auction

The annual pie and dessert auction at the October Little Missouri River Association was another success. Plates of cookies and brownies, pies and cakes, breads, and specialty desserts were auctioned to the highest bidder ... all for the cause of missions.

This year’s auction raised **\$6,335.00** for ACTS 1:8. Not bad for an association of only five churches.

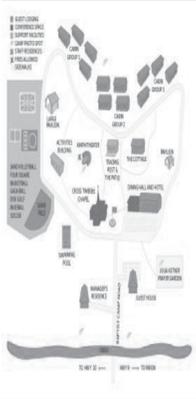
Thank you Moderator Ron Parker and the churches of the Little Missouri River Association. A sweet tasting job well done!



Sadie Tolleson, Daisy FWB Church, youngest bidder

CAMP PARON

16330 Baptist Camp Road
P.O. Box 24
Paron, AR 72122



Registration

\$50.00 early registration
(by December 15th)

\$55.00
(after December 15th)

“Adorned”

RETREAT

JANUARY 5-6, 2018

AGES 13 & UP



I will praise you for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. . . . Psalm 139:14

REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: _____

ADDRESS _____

CELL PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

CHURCH _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

REGISTRATION COST:
\$50.00 (BEFORE 12/15)

\$55.00 (AFTER 12/15)

Our Speaker Larissa Coleman



Larissa is from Greenwood, AR where her husband Nick serves as youth pastor at First Free Will Baptist Church.

She graduated from Welch College in 2016 with a bachelor's degree in psychology and is currently working on her master's degree.

Larissa and her husband have an immense passion and desire to work with the youth of this generation and want to see them use their talents and gifts in the local church.

She loves Christ, His Church, and His people.

Some of her favorites include: food, football, sign language, and fall weather.

Friday

Registration: 5-6pm

Photo Scavenger Hunt

Supper: 6pm

Session 1 (after supper)

Fun Time (after session 1)

Saturday

Breakfast – 9:30am

Session 2 (after breakfast)

Mail the registration form and fee to:

Melissa Haralson, 231 Hartwick Lane, Atkins, AR 72823

Arkansas Churches without Pastors

The following churches have asked the State Office to announce their pulpit vacancies.

Baker's Creek FWB Church

1581 Baker's Creek Rd
Russellville, AR 72802

Contact: Joe Ford
(479.857.0694)

Cedar Heights FWB Church

119 Locust Street
Quitman, AR 72131

(501.335.7685)

Fairview FWB Church (bi-vocational)

598 Bradley 18 RD East (mail)
Warren, AR 71671

Contact: Gary Ashcraft
(870.820.2128)

(wanda_ashcraft@hughes.net)

Hatfield FWB Church

171 West Johnson
Hatfield, AR 71945

Contact: Mrs. Linda Denton
123 South Tilly Road
Hatfield, AR 71945
(870.389.6676)

Huntsville FWB Church

702 College Street
Huntsville, AR 72740

Contact: Jeff Reeves
(479.409.4853)
Don Smith (479.325.1046)

Upper Spring Creek FWB Church

4941 Old Booneville Road
Belleville, AR 72824

Contact: Harlan Patton
(479.495.2483)

Family Ministries--Old Mt. Zion Church

On September 17, 2017, Mt Zion Free Will Baptist Church had Ken Winningham (Free Will Baptist Family Ministries) to present a program on where the work originally began and the work that is being done in Arkansas.

Free Will Baptist Family Ministries begin in 1939 in Greeneville Tennessee. Family Ministries has three ministries in our state. The Florence Crittenton house in Little Rock was the first; it houses children and youth in need of a safe and secure environment.

The Maggie House in Charleston was next. An old Nursing Home renovated into four housing units, it opened in 2015. It is full of children made up mainly of sibling groups that have been separated in different home across the state.

The Curt, Cliff, and Opal Young Children's Home at Chaffee Crossing in Fort Smith is the latest. It's campus has four cottages that will house 32 children.

The Mt Zion FWB Church family is thankful for those who are committed in carrying on this ministry.



Rev. Eldon and Sister Audry Bagwell presenting a check to Brother Ken Winningham for Family Ministries

Arkansas FWWB STUDENT MINISTRIES

2018 Winter Retreats

Kids Retreat

February 23-24, 2018

2nd-6th Grade

Teen Retreat

March 2-3, 2018

7th-12th Grade

Registration begins at 5:30 p.m. / Cost is \$35.00 per student

starr
leadership challenge

May 28-June 23
2018

STARR Leadership Challenge is a leadership training opportunity for Arkansas Free Will Baptist High School students grades 9th-12th. It is designed to provide both training and hands on activities for students with a desire to become "Servant Leaders".

For additional information and Application, go to www.campbeaverfork.org and click on the "STARR Leadership Challenge" link

**Camp
Beaverfork**



Ministers' Wives' Retreat

When: February 2-3, 2018

Where: Camp Paron

Cost: \$75 (based on two per room)

Speaker: Carolyn Dwyer (TN)

Theme: "Mirror, Mirror"

Verse: 2 Corinthians 3:18

"But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, eave as by the Spirit of the Lord."



About the Speaker

Carolyn Dwyer has been married to Danny for 51 years, a pastors wife for 48 of those years. She served as Dean of Women at Southeastern FWB College, as well as administrative assistant. She has three children and seven grandchildren. In her spare time she loves gardening and golf.

Ladies, mark your calendar, and plan on attending.

Sign up for important Prayer updates from National Association of Free Will Baptists 2018 Convention.

Get information for **2018 Prayer Team for the National Association in Little Rock** right on your phone—not on handouts.

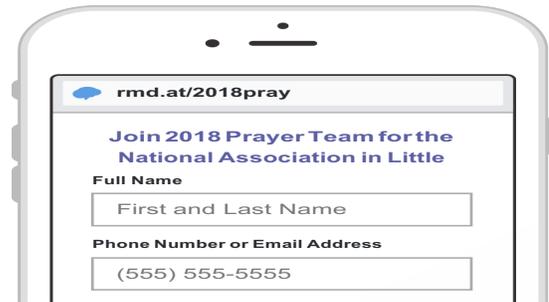
Pick a way to receive messages for **2018 Prayer Team for the National Association in Little Rock**:

A **If you have a smartphone, get push notifications.**

On your iPhone or Android phone, open your web browser and go to the following link:

rmd.at/2018pray

Follow the instructions to sign up for Remind. You'll be prompted to download the mobile app.



B **If you don't have a smartphone, get text notifications.**

Text the message **@2018pray** to the number **81010**.

If you're having trouble with **81010**, try texting **@2018pray** to **(479) 431-6618**.

* Standard text message rates apply.



Don't have a mobile phone? Go to rmd.at/2018pray on a desktop computer to sign up for email notifications.

Mark Your Calendar

The 2018 Arkansas Free Will Baptist State Meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 21-22, 2018.



State WAC Presidents' Luncheon

Date: Saturday, February 10, 2018

Time: 10:00 am

Location: First Free Will Baptist Church, Conway

Who: All district and local Presidents and Vice-Presidents are invited to attend.

For more information contact Lisa Bowden
lisabowden@suddenlink.net
479.968.8321

2018 State Board & Officer Nominations

Nominations are being accepted for state board and officers to be elected at this year's May 2018 State meeting. The **deadline** for submitting a nomination is **February 28, 2018**.

Nominations may be sent to:

Tim Harris
First Free Will Baptist Church
PO Box 253
Conway, AR 72033
(email) jamesharris81@yahoo.com



Randall Recap - Fall 2017

Falling Back Into The Swing of Things

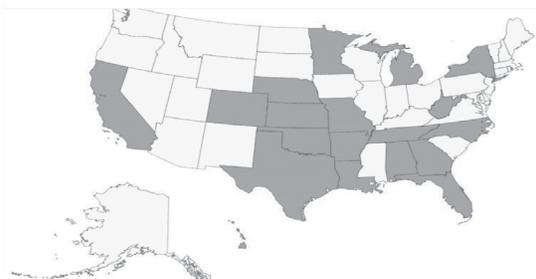


We are glad to introduce you to the new students here at Randall University. This is the third consecutive fall semester of increased enrollment of new students. While statistics tell us that not every one of these young men and women may leave our campus with the degree they came for, we are committed to ensuring that they do not leave unchanged. We want each and every student to be impacted in some way for the glory of Christ, and we are excited to see what God is going to do in their lives while they are on our campus.

Randall Students Come From Near and Far

In the academic year of 2016-2017,
we had 386 students
from 19 states.

We awarded 60 degrees.



2018 Nomination Schedule
Arkansas State Association of Free Will Baptists



Executive Board

Tim Harris (2018)	_____
*Terry Spradlin (2018)	_____
Kendall Ross (2019)	
Kevin Barnett (2019)	
Ricky Rauls (2020)	
Mark Stripling (2020)	

Mission Board

*Russell Thomas (2018)	_____
*Jeff Holland (2018)	_____
Kevin Jewell (2019)	
Blaine Rogers (2019)	
Jared Higginbotham (2020)	
Scott Warren (2020)	

Christian Education Board

*Jim Walker (2018)	_____
Ben Ryan (2018)	_____
Travis Alexander (2019)	
BJ Duvall (2019)	
Danny O'Neal (2020)	
Ben Campbell (2020)	

Youth Board

*Tim Forman (2018)	_____
Daniel Young (2018)	_____
Bret Morris (2019)	
Bradley Taylor (2019)	
Ben Gibson (2020)	
Chance Skinner (2020)	

State Officers

Moderator (Nelson Henderson)	_____
Asst Mod (Tim Landers)	_____
Clerk (Wendell Leckbee)	_____
Asst Clerk (Keith Bowden)	_____

Randall University Trustee

Jason Nichols (2018-2020 term)	_____
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*ineligible for reelection

Note: nominations may be made from the floor at the State meeting.

64th Annual Arkansas WAC Meeting

Camp Beaverfork, Conway
 March 10, 2018

**Theme: "Ministry in Motion:
 Walk, Talk, Give, Send"**

Scripture: Colossians 3:17

8:00 AM -- Registration: Janie Campbell

8:30 AM -- Morning Session

Congregational Singing: Sandy Forman
 Seating of Delegates
 Appointment of Committees
 Missionary Share Time
 WNAC Report

Brunch

10:30 AM -- Business Session

Congregational Singing: Sandy Forman
 Secretary's Report: Brenda Housley
 Treasurer's Report: Melissa Haralson
 Election of State Nominating Committee
 Recommendations from Executive Committee
 Selection of 2018 State Project
 Miscellaneous Business

11:45 AM -- Worship Service

Memorial Moment: Brenda Housley
 Congregational Singing: Sandy Forman
 Offering
 Special Music

Speaker: Beth Willhite of Texas
 Closing Remarks: Lisa Bowden

Lunch--On Your Own

**Scholarship Application
Christian Education Board
Arkansas State Association of Free Will Baptists**

State Office Use Only
Date Received: _____
Signature: _____

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Phone (_____) _____ Email _____
Date of Birth _____

Information of Arkansas Church where you are a member....

Church Name _____
Church Address _____
Church City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Pastor's Name _____
Date graduated from High School _____
Name of High School _____
Name of School you will be attending _____
Semester attending _____ Fall _____ Summer _____ Spring _____
Are you pursuing an Undergraduate degree? _____
If yes, what degree? _____
Are you pursuing a Graduate level degree? _____
If yes, what degree _____
Last semester grade point average (high school or college) _____
You will be enrolling as a: (circle one) Freshman Sophomore Junior Senior
Graduate Student

Please list two references....

Name _____	Name _____
Address _____	Address _____
City _____ St _____ Zip _____	City _____ St _____ Zip _____
Phone (_____) _____	Phone (_____) _____

Agreement

I agree to repay the funds that I receive from the Arkansas Free Will Baptist Christian Education Scholarship if I fail to be active in a Free Will Baptist church for five years after completing my course of study. I am enrolling in a Free Will Baptist College (or approved Seminary if Graduate level) and understand the conditions for receiving scholarship funds and agree to those conditions.

Signature Printed Name Date

This application, along with a **reference letter, testimony, and statement of need** must be received in the State Office by no later than February 28th. **NOTE: IF YOU ARE REAPPLYING YOU DO NOT HAVE TO SUPPLY THE TESTIMONY OR STATEMENT OF NEED DOCUMENTS. YOU DO NEED THE REFERENCE LETTER.**

Mail applications to:
Arkansas Free Will Baptists, 2105 Harkrider, Conway, AR 72032

"Educating and edifying Arkansas Free Will Baptists for the furtherance of the Gospel"

This application is for the 2018-2019 academic year.
Note: go to www.arfwb.org, Chrisitan Education page for application guidelines.

Arkansas
Free Will Baptists
2105 Harkrider
Conway, AR 72032
(501) 329-8193

Non-Profit Organization
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Conway, AR 72032
Permit No. 155

Publication Note:

Due to a continued unacceptable income vs. expense inequity, the VISON will begin publishing on a bi-monthly schedule, starting with the January-February 2018 issue.

Our desire is to produce an informative paper for our constituents, but to do so as good stewards of the monies we receive. Therefore we, reluctantly announce this change.

Publication Data

The Vision is published 6 times yearly by the Arkansas State Association of Free Will Baptists, Inc. Executive Director, David Taylor, is the editor. Subscription rates are \$6.00 per subscription per year. The editors email is:

david@arfwb.org.

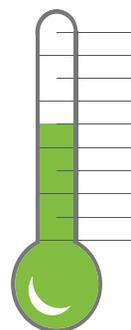
Stories, articles, events, pictures are welcomed. Submissions must be in by the 5th of the month for the next month's VISION.

The editor reserves the right to accept or reject any articles submitted for publication. All printed articles represent the views of the authors and do not reflect the policy or position of Arkansas Free Will Baptists.

National Hosting Fee

Thank you to all the churches who have stepped up to the plate, helping with our obligation to host the 2018 National Association next July in Little Rock. Through the end of November, we have received **\$22,869.00**.

Our goal is **\$40,000**.



\$40,000.00

\$22,869.00

As you can see we still have **\$17,131.00** to raise.

We have asked each church to consider sending a **\$200** gift for our hosting fee. Some churches have sent more. Many of our smaller churches have sent the full amount. Maybe your association would consider sending a gift.

From a planning perspective, July 2018 is closer than we think.

Thank you in advance for what I know you will do.