

The Vision



**Ozark Free Will Baptist Church
50th Anniversary Celebration**

Ozark Church Celebrates 50th Anniversary

Pastor Kendall Ross and the Ozark FWB Church celebrated the church's 50th anniversary on Sunday, April 24th. Former pastors Jack Gilbert, Rick Ketchum, and Steve Sawrie shared a few thoughts about the church through the years, and its growth.

Nineteen charter members organized on April 23, 1966. Eight men have served as pastor, with Rev. Kendall Ross taking the helm of the church in January, 2009. The first baptism took place on Mother's Day, May 8, 1966 in Fanes Creek with Karen Allen, Louise Richards, David Brown and Larry Brown being baptized.

On August 2, 1966 the church voted to give 10% of tithes to the Cooperative Plan of Arkansas FWB, and have been doing so since that date.

The church purchased the 4-acre tract of land on the corner of Puddin Ridge and Highway 54 for \$20,000, with an additional acre of land donated by a church member shortly thereafter. Ground breaking was held on September 6, 1997. The first service at the Puddin Ridge location was Easter Sunday, April 4, 1999, and the church plant was dedicated a month later. In October 2006 the building fund was paid in full.

In 2010 the church sponsored the first "God Belongs in My City" walk, involving other area churches to pray for the community. It has become a well-received and participated-in annual event.

Since 2009, the church has seen 61 baptisms with 65 new members added to the membership.

Following the celebration service, a 50-stone memorial was unveiled to commemorate this occasion. Then those in attendance enjoyed a time of fellowship over lunch.

Congratulations to the Ozark FWB Church, Pastor Kendall Ross, and his wife Denise ... keep up the great work!

Next Month:

Pictures and results of the CTS competition, as well as pictures and news of some recent donations to Camp Beaverfork.



Social Band 5K Run & Walk

The Social Band Association held the Leo Martin World Missions 5K Run & Walk on Saturday, April 23rd in Walnut Ridge. 54 runners and walkers participated, raising in excess of \$11,000 for world missions.

On Sunday evening area Free Will Baptist churches met at the First Free Will Baptist Church at Walnut Ridge for a mission rally. Rev. Don Matchett was present and showed a challenging video about A.C.T.S. 1:8 and afterward Doug and Dale Bishop, missionaries to Japan, challenged the congregation.

Also, Bro. Terry Spradlin, the 5K coordinator, gave the official total for the rally. There was record participation on the part of the runners and sponsors.

All those present celebrated what the Lord had done to further His cause through missions.

**God doesn't give us
what we can handle,**

**God helps us handle
what we are given.**

--Author Unknown



Decision America Tour 2016

Tuesday, April 12th an estimated 5,100 people attended a prayer rally at the State Capital in Little Rock. Rev. Franklin Graham is holding a prayer rally at the capital in every state in 2016. A number of our Free Will Baptist churches were represented; including Jan Morrison, and daughter's Jessica and Marley (Friendship FWB Church), who worked as volunteers.

WANTED

Church Articles, Events, Stories

Articles of church news and events, with pictures, are welcomed by the Vision editor. We want to share what's happening among Free Will Baptists in Arkansas.

Submit by the 5th of the month your story for consideration in the next month's Vision. Articles and photos may be submitted by email to:
david@arfb.org

Welch College

Welch College experienced a good year. The construction process at the new campus site in Gallatin, Tennessee continues to progressing well. Vertical construction is now in progress on all four of the buildings on the main quad, including the Main Hall and the Fine Arts Building/Dining Hall.

Baccalaureate was held May 5th. Commencement was May 7th.

Relocation to the new campus is scheduled for the spring semester, 2017. Continue to pray for and support the Building on the Legacy (www.BuildingontheLegacy.com).



Hillsdale College

Another good year at Hillsdale College has closed. The recent Hillsdale Scholarship Auction was a good success. Commencement was May 7th. Former college president Carl Cheshier was the main speaker, and former presidents Edwin Wade and Jim Shepherd also participated in the final commencement as Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College.

The name change to Randall University is nearing completion (July 1, 2016). Recognition has been received by the Oklahoma Secretary of State, TRACS, the US Department of Education, and the IRS. The Oklahoma Regents for Higher Education process looks to be completed in a few weeks.

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State Office Refurbishing

In recent weeks the State Office has been a construction zone. Wallpaper has been removed and new paint has taken its place. Thanks to donated labor, the expense has been minimal.

Stop by and visit, and see the changes taking place at your State Office.

Publication Data

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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.