

O * H * I * O AMBASSADOR



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*The Voice of Ohio Free Will Baptists Proclaiming
The Words of Christ to a Lost World*



New Year Issue



God Can Use Your Brokenness

Another ones trash is another ones treasure. How many times have you heard someone say that? Unfortunately, when it comes to people, the world throws them away when they see someone is broken. They don't have time to invest in their lives. I'm thankful that there is someone I know well that will never throw you away. That is Jesus. He is One who loves the outcast and truly cares for the brokenhearted. God is a god of restoration and we ought to be like that too. We should be a church that restores individuals, not throw them away. I'd like to explore the idea that God can use your brokenness in a big way. Do you know that God is near the broken?

Psalm 34:18 tells us *"The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite (hurt or remorseful) spirit."* And Psalm 147:3 lets us know that *"He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds."*

Consider the life of Paul to think how God loves the broken and how God can use the broken. The story in which we will reference is found in Acts 27.

The apostle Paul was on route to Rome. He was on his way to there to face the music – he was prosecuted for preaching this new Gospel; this Gospel created instability to the Roman Empire. He was going to face the music with Caesar. He had a date with destiny so he thought. In vs. 14 we see: *"a wind came and the ship could not head into the wind."* They were afraid they would run aground so they lowered the anchor and allowed the anchor to be driven by the storm. (vs. 17) Because of this the ship broke in pieces and they barely made it to Malta.

Perception is not reality

Rome was the United Nations of the first century. All roads led to Rome. It would not be coincidental that Paul was heading there. Paul was not ashamed of the gospel; he was in route to Rome because God wanted him to have the platform to amplify the narrative of a new faith. He wasn't going in the best of circumstances or traveling on the nicest boat. He was going as a prisoner on a prison ship. God many times uses circumstances that seem superficially impossible to show off His glory.

Paul was on his way to Rome to face potential execution – but to God Paul was on his way to preach the gospel of Christ. Perception is not reality. To us, he was going to face trial but God told Paul that He was going to get him to Rome and this gospel will be preached there. *"And the night following the Lord stood by him, and said, Be of good cheer, Paul: for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome."* Acts 23:11 God had preordained his trip to Rome. God has preordained something for us. Right now it may look like the devil is winning and hell is about to celebrate, but it is not what it seems because God is going to turn it around in our favor!

We need to determine we are going our way to Rome. What you are going through will catapult you to what God is taking you to. He will turn it around. *"For the Lord of hosts hath purposed, and*



who shall disannul it? and his hand is stretched out, and who shall turn it back?" Isaiah 14:27 No one can stop God. God's plan cannot and will not be stopped. The reason the enemy attacks you is not because of your past, but because of what you are going to do for Jesus in your future! If the devil isn't attacking, you aren't working! Don't be driven by what we see but be driven but what He has said. It is time we determine that we won't be driven our past or by what others think about us. We won't be driven by hell or by our mistakes, but we will be driven by the presence and the glory of the risen Christ! Our perception is not a reality and our blessing will overtake the brokenness. The devil says go ahead and pout, but Jesus says go ahead and praise. What will we do in our storms?

Do not lower your anchor until you've reached your destination

The ship was caught by the storm and they were afraid so they lowered the anchors in order to be driven along. They were far from Rome and their appointment. But because of fear they were prompted to lower their anchor. Have you ever been afraid of something? Their ship fell apart because of fear. What are you afraid of? Rejection? Failure? Being betrayed? Many of us struggle with fear and it is the enemy of faith. Fear makes us stop prematurely before we reach our destination. It can cause you to veer off course. They were way off course. Fear can take us off track.

Fear made Elijah hide from Jezebel. Fear made Peter deny Jesus three times. You must confront your fears today. Here is the antidote for your fear: *"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear;*

but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." 2 Timothy 1:7 What are you going to do with it? These individuals gave into their fear and thought they were going to die so much that they were throwing things over board.

Because of the storms we have been in, we drop our anchors. We let go of our faith. We give up. We get stuck in the waters of life because we focus on the storm instead of the destination. We get stuck because of what we did to ourselves in the past or what others have done to us.

We experience no growth when we are stuck. We may convince ourselves that we are moving, but in reality we aren't. We are stuck! No joy – you know why? Because we dropped our anchor in the midst of our storm. Today is the day that we should raise our anchors. *"And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God."* 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

Anchors are important but if used in the storm they can be dangerous. They can cause a ship to flip over, to take on water, etc. Our anchors can be dangerous too.

Continued on Page 3

Together We Can

The Culture Wars And How Christians Should React To Them

All of us have heard the term “Culture Wars” in the news or at school or at work. America has been engaged in a culture war for some time now. What is a culture war and how did we get here?

If you would go back to the 1950’s most of America had the same world view. By that I mean that most Americans believed in God (mostly Christians) and that our society was based on what is called the Judo-Christian ethic (Old Testament & New Testament). We freely prayed in schools and public events, prayers were offered at government meetings at all levels. The nuclear family and sexual purity were valued and children were raised to respect authority, God and the Bible. This does not mean that everyone in America were Christians, but that we did live by this same world view. American society basically backed up the church and the Bible. This was the American culture.

In the 1960’s a rebellion, starting on the college campus’ began to challenge the Judo-Christian ethic in America. No longer was sexual purity and the family seen as the norm. In fact they said it was harmful and oppressive. Practices such as public prayer and Bible reading were challenged and banished from our schools and public places. Respect for authority was ridiculed and parents were told that we have been wrong in the way we have been raising our children all these years! The Bible was refused as a standard for society and a distrust of authority became the norm.

Fast forward to the present day. Those that were involved in the rebellion of the 1960’s and their children are now in the leadership of our country, especially in our higher education and that filters down to all public education. We have become a secular society with a “moving standard” of what is right and wrong. The nuclear family is no longer the norm or is it desired to be. Purity and loyalty are not given the value it once did.

As a result of this casting off of God’s unchangeable standard, young people are confused. Those who have not been taught or been disciplined seem to be unhappy and without hope or confidence. They have been given no boundaries, no fences and no fear. They have been told that they are an accident, that life does not really have an eternal meaning. They are told that they have not been created with a plan. That is why abortion makes sense to them. They do not see people as made in the image of God. Young people are confused about gender roles since they do not recognize the Designer of those roles. And because of the breakdown of the family, they don’t have good role models for gender. In the unrest, distrust and unhappiness we see in our society, we are reaping what we have sown and we are paying a heavy price for it! This is nothing new. See (Romans 1) This happened in the ancient world and will always happen when man rejects the standards of the Lord.

In the Culture War-A rebellion against God’s design, we see the areas of contention:

1. The Value of Believing in God
2. The Standard on Which Our Society Will Depend On to Be Our Rule
3. The Design of the Human Family
4. The Roles for Men and Women
5. The Value of Marriage
6. How to Raise Children
7. The Design of our Gender

This is the view of the modern day secularist, which would summarize by saying that they have a view of things the way secular man wants them to be. They deny human nature. They proclaim things like this:

- *Spanking children harms them. (Proverbs 22:15 & Proverbs 29:15) God’s Word says it will help them.
- *Capital Punishment doesn’t prevent crime.
- *Giving condoms to teens will help.
- *You can spend your way out of debt.
- *This world was made without a Creator.
- *Immorality hurts no one but the person who commits it.
- *Perversion is simply an alternate life style.
- *An unborn baby is not a person.
- *A family where the husband is the head of the home and the wife is subject to her husband as the Church is to Christ is outdated.

A person can be of great intellect, education, shrewd, or clever, but without the fear of the Lord they will not be able to possess true wisdom and will flounder in their lives. And many are! If a person doesn’t understand the depravity of the human heart, he will never possess wisdom. The prophet Jeremiah let us know that “*The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?*” Jeremiah 17:9



In the next issue, we will address what we as Christians can do be effective in the culture wars.

Edwin Hayes
Executive Secretary

Secretary’s Schedule

January 7	Columbus First AM Service, Billy Parson, Pastor
January 14	Gahanna AM Service, Curtis Booth, Pastor
January 18-20	Ohio Men’s Retreat, Heartland Retreat Center
January 21	Friendly FWB AM Service, Alan Wright, Pastor
January 28	Hillview FWB AM Service, Bill Hayes, Pastor
February 5-6	National Promotional Director’s Meeting
February 18	Elm Street FWB AM Service, Ronnie Conn Sr, Pastor
February 25	Southwest FWB AM Service, John Meade, Pastor
March 6	Samantha AM Service, Wiley Perkins, Pastor
March 13	Ohio Board of Director Budget Committee Meeting

Attention: Ambassador Reporters

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE!

The deadline for the
March-April Issue will be
Noon, March 1st

EDITOR	Edwin Hayes 7554 Slate Ridge Blvd Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068 (614) 751-1190 ehayes@ambassadorbible.com	STATE CTS BOARD	Deanna Price 2024 Mike Sammons 2023 Marcus Bailey 2022 Mike Ellis 2021 Mark McCarty 2020 Jason Luthy-Chairman 2019 Adam McCarty 2018
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The **AMBASSADOR** is the official publication of the:

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The *Ambassador* is committed to promoting the cause of Jesus Christ and the Ohio State Association of Free Will Baptists by presenting articles, announcements and pertinent news to inform our member churches and constituents.

We reserve the right to edit or reject materials submitted for publication in the *Ambassador*. The views expressed are not necessarily the view of the Ohio State Association of Free Will Baptists.

The publication deadline is **NOON** as follows:
January 1st, March 1st, May 1st, July 1st,
September 1st and November 1st. All gifts
given to the *Ambassador* should be sent to the
above address.

Continued from Page 1

God can use your brokenness

God showed up and instructed Paul to tell them that everyone on the ship was going to make it, but the ship will not. Sometimes we lose the ship. Sometimes we think the ship will take us to meet our dream, sometimes we focus on what we are in instead of what He has put inside us. We may have had something stolen from us. We may not have what we thought we would have, but we have not drowned. We may have thought we should be on a particular ship, but God has a bigger ship for us. It is here and ready for us to board. Why haven't we drowned? Because of Romans 8:11 *"But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you."*

Let's stop complaining or dwelling about the lost ship. We should not ask Him to restore our past. He is not interested in renovating our past, He is interested in releasing our future. We are going to make it! We are going to make it. Believe it! – We are going to make it!

We should not dwell on what we lost. We should remember where we are going. What we lost cannot compare to what God is sending our way. My worst day as a Christian is far better than my best day as a sinner.

Conclusion

How do we know we can make it? Paul answered in vs 25. He had been through storms and was still standing. I have been through my own shipwrecks and I'm still standing. You've been in your own shipwrecks and you are still standing too!

Some frightened sailors tried to lower the life boats – in case the word Paul gave them didn't work. They had a "Plan B." Paul said let the life boats be cut down and be allowed to drift away. In God there is no "Plan B." Either we trust Him for everything or we trust Him for nothing. Sometimes in life we have to learn to just let the lifeboats go.

They made it to Malta by holding on to a few pieces of the ship. Sometimes pieces are all we have. Sometimes it is just one broken piece of wood. It doesn't matter how broken or how shattered we may be, God does amazing things with broken pieces! They all made it to land. (Acts 27:44) God is greater than the brokenness of men. Each person on this ship made it, just as God promised.

If God is the Savior of your life, you aren't "going" to make it, you have "already" made it! You made it not because you perfectly held on to God, you made it because He perfectly held on to you!

Even if you are broken – your "stuck season" can be over today! Anchors are important, but when the seas are rough they are dangerous. Let's raise anchor today and trust God. We are not holding onto just any piece of wood. We are holding on to the wood that is your cross. Holding on to His saving grace – the life of Jesus, the death of Jesus, the blood of Jesus and bless God, the resurrection of Jesus!

Kyle Chadwick, Associate Pastor of the North FWB Church

The D6 Conference 2018

Bringing Family Ministry to North Carolina!



The D6 Conference will once again bring together parents and ministry leaders from across the country and around the world to be inspired and learn practical strategies for generational discipleship. Generational Discipleship is the very essence of cultural change. This year the D6 Conference will be held in Greensboro, NC, and will focus on the theme **Church + Home**. This theme emphasizes the idea that discipleship is not an event, but a way of life. Only when the church partners with parents will true discipleship occur.

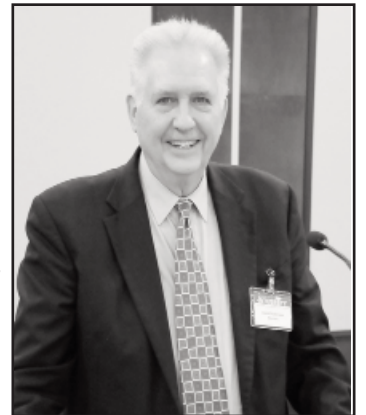
The 2018 D6 Conference in Greensboro, NC, will feature over 50 breakouts. Ministry leaders will explore topics related to men, women, youth, children, marriage, family leadership, divorce, special needs care, and more. Dynamic communicators from the main stage will challenge attendees to reflect on current approaches to family ministry. Intentional time will be provided for team reflection along with networking opportunities for those wanting to connect with other leaders in their field. D6 Conference Director **Ron Hunter** points out, "We continue to see churches bring their whole team and lay volunteers to plan, get ideas, and learn together."

Join with other leaders just like you who want to understand God's plan for healthy churches and healthy homes. Find the latest resources from dozens of vendors dedicated to equipping ministries and families. D6 2018 will take place September 19-21, at the Sheraton in Greensboro, NC. Don't miss the family ministry conference for your entire team!

A growing list of speakers will be made available online at D6conference.com along with schedules, travel accommodations, and FAQ's.

Leading With Integrity 2017 Leadership Conference

One hundred seventy-two pastors, denominational officials, and church leaders from 19 states and a Canadian province gathered December 4-5 at Nashville Airport Marriott Hotel for the 2017 Free Will Baptist Leadership Conference. The two-day conference featured keynote speaker Clark Dickerson who explored the theme *Leading With Integrity*.



**Keynote Speaker
Clark Dickerson**

With 40 years of fund-raising experience (and more than three decades as a fund-raising consultant for Christian organizations), Dickerson has provided counsel for hundreds of organizations. For eight years Clark served as vice president of TCM International, a mission organization serving Eastern Europe prior to the fall of the Iron Curtain, traveling extensively throughout the Communist world to provide Christians a variety of spiritual and relief programs.

Clark founded Dickerson and Associates in 1985 and later merged with a friend to form Dickerson, Bakker, and Associates. As capital campaigns team leader for the company, today he focuses almost exclusively on assisting ministries, providing guidance to other consulting team members, and sharing his knowledge and experience through teaching, writing, and presenting. Clark explored three important topics during his sessions: 1) the selection and training of board members; 2) effective governance by a board of directors; and 3) the importance of effective fund raising and public relations. The sessions were well received, sparking conversation and debate on these important topics.

"In a world where integrity is sadly lacking," observed Executive Secretary **Keith Burden**, "it is crucial for leaders to be reminded of its value. The world is watching every move the Church makes, and **Clark Dickerson** provided clear, straightforward, easy-to-understand advice to help today's Christian leaders live and lead with integrity."

In additional keynote sessions, **Will Beauchamp**, pastor of First FWB Church Tampa, Florida, shared two lessons a biblical servant must learn when facing discouraging situations: 1) when others try to distract you, stay focused; and 2) when others try to slander you, stay faithful. **Gene Williams**, pastor of Parkers Chapel FWB Church, Greenville, North Carolina, explored the importance of accountability in the life of a leader, sharing four "pillars" upon which this important characteristic are built—responsibility, answerability, dependability, and liability.



Welch Choir Sings at the National Leadership Conference

Attendees enjoyed music provided by The Welch College Choir and Rejoice! Ensemble directed by Dr. **James Stevens**. Excellent meals provided ample opportunity for casual conversation, and Tuesday afternoon free time offered conference goers opportunity to renew friendships or enjoy the sights of Music City.

Eight national boards met in conjunction with the conference, including the Executive Committee, Board of Retirement, Free Will Baptist Foundation, Home Missions, International Missions, Randall House, WNAC, and Welch College, along with the 2017-2018 Nominating Committee.

"Iron sharpens iron," Tennessean **Corey Minter** observed as the conference drew to a close. "From sessions to services to fellowship, I left this year's leadership conference more encouraged and thankful for our movement."

The 2018 Leadership Conference will be held December 3-4 at the Nashville Airport Marriott. For updates, visit www.nafwb.org/leadershipconference.

Church News



SHELBY (NORTHERN OHIO)

There is a stanza in the song “Once in Royal David’s City” that reads...”Tears and smiles, like us He knew/ And He feeleth for our sadness/ And He shareth in our gladness.” One of the many joys of Christmas is rejoicing in the fact that our great Savior came to earth in human form, taking on not only all our sins but also all our emotions. He can feel our sorrows and anguish; He laughs with us in our happiness. His birth into humanity allows us to take all our thoughts and feelings to Him – and to know with confidence that He understands.

Our church, like so many others, went through the Christmas season with numerous activities – making and delivering food baskets, supporting the Shelby Helpline Angel Tree kids, volunteering for bell-ringing, putting on a Christmas play, and caroling to the shut-ins and elderly.

We know these things to be the duty of every servant of Christ – to help those with financial struggles, to bring friendship to those who are lonely. Though we may not be able to completely alleviate someone else’s problems or pain, our service will point them to the One who can – the One who understands it all, because He lived it all. It gives us yet another reason to be thankful for the birth of **Jesus!**

The Shelby Church wishes all of you a very blessed and wonderful New Year!

Matt Pond, Pastor
Heather Brown, Reporter

SOUTHWEST (CAPITAL CITY)

We send greetings trusting God is blessing our churches throughout the state. This year has been filled with blessings for us. We were blessed during our revivals with **David Epps, Mike Blanton, Cal Ray Evans** and **Brian Baer**.

The Ladies’ Fellowship and Master’s Men meetings were a blessing to all who participated. Our Sunday School, Youth services and Youth Camp and all the other activities were filled with blessings also. There were several saved and baptized along with many new members being added to our church family.

We were blessed in our mission outreach which now totals 12 fields of ministry supported by our church. Now that we are headed into the NEW YEAR, we are so excited to see what God has in store for us.

The winter months are always tough because of bad weather, but we expect to see good things especially during The Ohio Men’s Retreat January 18th-20th for our men. It is always such a blessing.

We will be celebrating Pastor John’s 30th Anniversary as Pastor at Southwest Sunday, February 25th during the morning service. God has blessed him with a great ministry and we look forward to this celebration. Everyone is

invited as we show him how much we appreciate his effort for the church. We trust God will bless all of our churches and us as we “Continue on the move for Christ”.

John Meade, Pastor
Lee Gamble, Reporter

LIGHTHOUSE (TRI-STATE)

Greetings to all my fellow Free Will Baptists. It is a pleasure to write this report and we are praising God as always.

Praying that you had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

In November our ladies aux. served dinner to our local police and fire department. We are so grateful for their service. We also had pictures taken for our new church directory. We have so much going on with the church that we had Pastor Appreciation in November, also. We are truly blessed with our pastor and his wife.


On December 2nd our ladies had their annual Christmas party and had catering from LaRosa’s. We had a great time of fellowship and a lot of laughter.

We welcomed the **Woodman Quartet** to our church on Dec 3rd, we really enjoyed their singing.

On December 17th our youth did their Christmas program and they did a great job as always. We also had a visit from Santa Claus and he passed out bags of candy.

Our local Remkes donated apples and oranges.

Pastor Changes



Bethlehem	Without Pastor
Blackfork	Without Pastor
Eifort	Without Pastor
Faith Fellowship	Floyd Smith Retired
Newark	Without Pastor
Summit Station	Without Pastor
Wellington	Willie Bias, Interim Pastor
Zion #3	Without Pastor

They are so kind to us.
We also had donations of beautiful poinsettia plants from some of our members.
Bobby Courtney, Pastor
Nancy Reiber, Reporter

SPRINGFIELD (LITTLE MIAMI)

“And the people said unto Joshua, The LORD our God will we serve, and his voice will we obey.” Joshua 24:24
Hello from Springfield.
Reflecting on the past year, we see how amazing our God is. He has answered so many prayers and given us so many blessings.
We had our communion and feet washing service in Nov. and our Christmas dinner at Collier’s

Travis McKenzie, Ohio Home Missionary to Ashland, Ohio

A new year, new horizons and new blessings.



To say that 2017 was an eventful year seems to be an understatement. Compassion Church has gone from meeting once a month in a school cafeteria to meeting weekly in our newly remodeled, rented church building. We’ve seen God gloriously save three individuals and, Lord willing, in January or February of 2018 we will be baptizing some of these new converts!

As 2017 closes its pages, we are thankful for all the victories God has provided and we look toward 2018 and what He yet has in store for Compassion Church. There are new faces joining us in nearly every service. We are excited to see the many teenage and college-age young adults who are attending. This is a great blessing, but it also presents an enormous challenge. I am only one person, and I am very aware that I can only do so much. For this reason, we are praying that God would lead another family to Compassion Church who has the heart and the conviction to disciple these young people in a closer relationship with Christ. As we stand gazing at the dawn of a new year, we wonder who God has in His plan for our growing needs. We are constantly looking to see if they are coming into view from over the horizon.

As 2018 quickly approaches, our hearts go to the unreached within the community of Ashland. How will God have us reach them in the coming year? Should we simply repeat the same outreaches that we conducted in 2017? Or, should we seek to be a blessing in another way? Please help us pray that we will be led in the direction that will most honor Him!

We know that God is the source and reason of why Compassion Church has thrived in 2017. We also know, that if the church is going to continue to grow and reach others through Christ, we must be faithful stewards to the calling He has laid upon our hearts. As we serve the Lord, we are aware that Satan seeks to teardown all who desire to answer God’s call. Just as Nehemiah prayed when he withstood Sanballat, Tobiah and Geshem I also pray, *“Now therefore, Oh God, strengthen my hands!”* (Nehemiah 6:9).

The work of reaching others through Christ so we may reach others for Christ is what compels us to continually seek the lost in this community. We are so thankful for the prayers and support that the Free Will Baptist churches of Ohio have given in Christ’s name. As we look at the new year, with its new horizons and new blessings, please continue to keep the ministry of Compassion Church in your prayers.

In Christ’s service,
Travis McKenzie

in Dec. We are looking forward to our candle-light service on Jan. 7.
Another one of our dear members has gone to his heavenly home. Bro. **Elmer Sebastian** passed from this life on Dec. 8th. He was a blessing to all of us and we will miss him.
In 2018 make a commitment to keep God first in all that we do.
Until next time, wishing everyone a happy and healthy New Year!
Charles Crider, Pastor
Kristen Lemaster, Reporter

PORTER (PORTER)

We have had a busy season of celebrating the birth of our Lord **Jesus Christ**. Our youth along with their families visited The Christmas Cave in Minford, Ohio. This is an attraction the tells the Biblical account of the nativity story inside a mine. Please add this to your list of places to visit during the 2018 Christmas season!
We were blessed to be able to host Wheelersburg High School’s select chorus. They performed during an evening service for us. It was a time of worship through sacred Christmas music.
Our annual Christmas card collection service raised money this year to support **Doug** and **Patty Chamberlin**, missionaries to Spain. The money will specifically go toward the purchase of a new tractor for the school where they serve.
Our children’s program included a play entitled “The Next Noel” which was the sequel to last year’s play “The First Leon.” In this play the main character has great expectations for the Christmas program, but realizes that humble worship is exactly what our response should always be. We greatly appreciate the efforts of Sister Doris Chamberlin who served as the director. The children put in a great deal of hard work and it showed!
Our choir presented the cantata “His Highest Glory” directed by Brother David Chamberlin and accompanied by Sister Deena Armstrong. Our church is blessed with many talented individuals who show their love for the Lord with music. We are very thankful for all of the hard work that the choir does to present us with such a blessing.

Mark Price, Pastor
Tehra Clevenger, Reporter

WOODLAND CHAPEL (LAWRENCE)

We are ringing in the new year feeling blessed and praying for God’s continual guidance in 2018. As we look back and reflect over the previous year we remember many blessed joyous moments as well as some that left us feeling sad.
We said our earthly goodbyes to several loved ones with the peace of knowing we will see them again in heaven. We have witnessed professions of faith, believers baptisms, the unity of marriage, and the births of Little’s ones as well as an adoption. We have had many guest preachers who have shared the word and brought knowledge. We’ve enjoyed special singing and missionaries telling all about how to be saved and to serve the LORD. Saying that we have been blessed would be an understatement.
Looking into the year to come we are excited to see what it holds. We will be praising and praying the entire year through.
We would like to ask that you pray for the sick and those battling with circumstances.
As always, you are always welcome at Woodland Chapel and we would love to see you worshipping along side us.
Dave Schug, Pastor
Tabitha Crank, Reporter

Condolences

Thinking of you



Arnold Daniel Strausbaugh, age 93, of Urbana and formerly of St. Paris, OH, passed away Oct. 22nd in Mercy McAuley Center, Urbana. Born on October 12, 1924 in Rudolph, Ohio. Arnold was a son of the late F. Elman and Hattie G (Reiter) Strausbaugh. He married R. Irene Hamrick on February 14, 1953 and she preceded him in death on April 27, 2000.

Arnold is survived by two children, John Strausbaugh and Mary (David) Dennehy, both of Urbana, four grandchildren, Matthew Weber of San Francisco, CA, Chris (Sondra) Weber of Lee's Summit, MO, Cathy (Jay) Works of Frisco, Texas and Amy (John) Bates, also of Frisco, Texas, and eight great-grandchildren. Several nieces, nephews and extended family members also survive him. In addition to his wife and parents, his daughter, R. Kaye Littlejohn, five brothers, Bob, Leo, Leroy, Bill and George Strausbaugh, and one sister, Ida Schuff, preceded him in death. Arnold was a member of the Faith Fellowship FWB in Urbana. He served his country during WWII in the Army. He was formerly employed as a bus aide at Lawnview School in Urbana.

Reverend **Lovell J. May**, age 88, Sunrise May 2, 1929, Sunset November 27, 2017. Retired pastor with Canaan Land FWB Church. Pastored for several CCU and Hilltop Community Church. Member of UAW Local 969. U.S. Army Veteran. Served in Army and Navy Reserve and National Guard. Preceded in death by twin brother, Lowell, brother, George Jr., sisters, Vivian Eicher, Joyce Holbrook, Elsie Saxour.

Survived by wife of 71 years, Wanda May; children, Steven May, Sharon (Michael) Adams, and Ronald (Cindy) May; grandchildren, Todd, Tami, Tara, Jennifer, Joseph, Justin, Jim, Makenna, Elana, and Ethan; 14 great-grandchildren; 3 great-great-grandchildren; many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

His funeral service was held Dec. 1st at Canaan Land FWB Church with Pastor PJ Rings officiating.

Rev. **Robert Lewis Bryant** age 77, passed away December 2nd. He was the former pastor of the Piqua and Newark FWB Churches.

He is survived by Children – Traci (Dave) Adkins, Kevin (Anna) Bryant, & LeEllen Bryant; Grandchildren – Andrew Bryant, Philip Bryant



& Elizabeth Adkins; Sister – Barbara (Tom) Chaffin; & Brothers – Wallace (Rachel) Bryant & Rev. Roy Bryant

His funeral service was held December 7th at First Free Will Baptist Church in Crossville, TN with Pastor Mike McCoy officiating.

Dianna Short, age 62 of Gahanna, passed away on December 6th surrounded by her loving family. She was born on April 19, 1955 to Charles and Inez (Ferguson) Roberts in Columbus, OH. Dianna is survived by husband of 33 years Billie Short, daughter Ashley Short, grandson Brody, sister Patty (Gary) Sargent, and nephew Kyle (Holly) Sargent, great nieces Hannah and Georgia Sargent and great nephews Noah and Logan Sargent.

Her Funeral service was held at the Westerville FWB church December 12th with Pastor Jerry Sargent officiating.

Hoy (Eddie) Fisher passed away Sunday November 12, 2017 at Grady Memorial Hospital, after a short battle with Pneumonia. Eddie was a long time deacon of the Lewis Center FWB Church.

Rodger D. Lyons, brother in law to Ambassador Bookstore Manager Paul Keener passed away December 3rd. He was the brother of Sue Keener. He attended the Meade's Branch FWB Church in Kentucky.

Lorine Blankenship of Mt. Sterling went to be with her Savior and Lord Dec. 21st. She was born in Paintsville, Ky, July 25, 1918. Preceded in death by parents Melvin and Aggie Music, sister Sue Ferguson, brothers Gilbert, James and Frank Music, husband Rev. Jesse Blankenship. Left to mourn her loss, one sister, Gussie (Tiny) Music of Van Lear, KY; daughters Shirley (Mike) Dodge and Betty (Jim) Hollar of Mt. Sterling; sons Billy (Mary) Blankenship of Columbus and Jim (Linda) Blankenship of Mt. Sterling. Also mourning her loss are 13 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren, 12 great-great-grandchildren as well as a host of family and friends.

Her service was held December 27th at the Antioch FWB Church, Mt. Sterling with Pastor Harry Neal Frisby officiating.

J. Carol Waskey, age 88, passed away December 23rd. She was born on March 20, 1929 in Parkersburg, WV to the late Albert and Edith Byrd. Carol attended Liberty FWB; enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren and family, crocheting, and playing Bingo at the Nursing Home with her friends. Preceded in death by her husband, Leland S. Waskey and children, Leland J. and Judith A. Survived by children, Charlene S. Wilt (Marlin



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R.), Stephen L. Waskey, and Alan R. Waskey (Margo); grandchildren, Angel, Marlena, and Troy; 7 great-grandchildren; and 2 great-great grandchildren.

Funeral Services were held December 31st.

Phyllis H. Shirey, age 70, went home to be with her Lord and Savior on December 22nd. Born on January 27, 1947 in Barberton to the late Leo and Katherine (Messner) Fern, she was a life resident of the Barberton-Norton area. Phyllis was a member of Liberty FWB Church. She enjoyed spending time with her family and friends and taking part in different activities at her church.

Preceded in death by her brothers, Dale and Robert Fern; sisters, Patricia Fortner, Imogene Gregory, and Leona Schaffer; she is survived by her husband of 45 years, William; children, Debra Ramsey (Jeff Vittori) of New Franklin, Mishelle Walsh of Barberton, Carmen Mitchell of Orrville; 6 grandchildren, one great granddaughter, brothers, Larry (Kim) Fern, Gerald (Debbie) Fern; sister-in-law, Jo Fern; nieces, nephews, other family and friends.

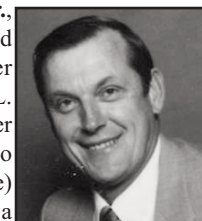
Funeral service was held December 29th, at



Liberty FWB Church with Pastor Cecil Farmer officiating.

Elmer L Sebastian, Jr., 82, of Springfield, passed away Friday, December 8th in St. Petersburg, FL. Elmer was born October 10, 1935 in Jenkins, KY to Elmer and Elsie (Taulbee) Sebastian, Sr. He was a member of Sunset FWB Church. Survivors include four children, Dwayne (Cheryl) Sebastian, Patti (Brian) Goffe, Karen (Mike) Kobak and Bethany Sebastian; 11 grandchildren; 11 great grandchildren; five siblings, Gloria, Nancy, Irene, Vivian and Mike; and numerous nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Maryetta; and five siblings, Ed, Harold, Faye, Dolores and Maureen.

Funeral service were held on Dec. 11th with Pastor Steve Wallace officiating



PURITAN (SOUTH CENTRAL)

Greetings from Puritan FWB Church.

We are a blessed Church! Our services have been wonderful and the spirit of our Lord reigns above all! During this Christmas season, our church came together and helped several families be able to have gifts for their children and provided fruit baskets for our shut ins. It all has been such a blessing!

We are looking forward to see what 2018 and our Lord has in store for our church! Continue to pray for our sick and shut ins and also for lost souls to come into the "Family of God"!

Jamie Fortner, Pastor
Rhonda Fortner, Reporter

Faith Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church Urbana, Ohio In need of Pastor

Our current pastor stepped down as of December 30, 2017 due to health reasons.

For further information, you can contact **Ronald Horsley**
at (937) 653-8997 or (937) 206-7958



Available

Free Will Baptist Singing Groups

The following singers and singing groups are available to come and sing in your church for revivals or special services.

Baldwin Family Bluegrass Singers, Rosedale, Call Chuck Baldwin (937) 926-3177 Baldwin777@roadrunner.com
Bobby Siders, Columbus, (Southern Gospel) (614) 778-9250
Born Again Gospel Singers, Harry or Irene Litton (740) 927-5319
Covered By Love, South Webster, Call Rhonda Smith 740/961-3412 or 740/961-3413
 Website: www.coveredbyloveonline.com
Cross Pointe Trio, Lancaster, Call Bill Pitts (740) 438-7750 wpitts@columbus.rr.com
 Website: www.crosspointetrio.com
David Giddens, Marysville, (937) 642-2121 igiddens@urec.net
Day 3, Scott & Sheri Noel (740) 574-6635 sdnoel07@yahoo.com
Enabling Grace, Woodstock, (Country and Bluegrass Gospel) (937) 717-8783
Faith Gospel & Contemporary Christian Music, Sidney, Call Pam Moorman (937) 492-1059 ladypam@bright.net
Faith in Action, Marion, Call Marjorie Abrams at (740) 383-5405 or Pleasant Hill FWB, (740) 363-5295 Attention: Marjorie Abrams or Bob Chaffin or email songlady_99@yahoo.com
God's Ambassadors, Gahanna, Call Judy Spires (614) 475-4689
Gospel Ambassadors, Rittman, Call Greg Marcum (330) 927-9057
Ethan Hutchinson, Somerset, (740) 892-4001
www.ethanhutchinsonofficial.com/fr_home.cfm
Jerry Branscomb, Chillicothe, (740) 637-1228
Justified, Lancaster, 43130 (614) 271-4599 robertk14@mail.com
 Facebook under group name .. Justified
Just Forgiven Singing Ministries, Dayton, (Southern Gospel) (937) 280-3840 or (614) 309-2512
Headed Home-Singing For The Lord, Oak Hill, Call Jim Evans (740) 682-6109 or Robert Gamble (740) 682-0042
Lord Willing, Wellston, (740) 418-9992, lovdaisynewf@gmail.com
Mike Blanton & Evidence, Grove City, (614) 871-2795
Mike Kisling, Hillsboro, (937) 393-2084
Nina Nash, Leesburg, (Southern Gospel Sound Tracks) (937) 780-6865 gnash2@cinci.rr.com
Ounce of Hope, Delaware, (Southern Gospel) (740) 363-4576
Paul James Sound, Columbus, (614) 668-8916 paul@pauljamessound.com
 Website: www.pauljamessound.com
Ruth Hammond, Grove City, (614) 440-0694 ruthandkevin77@gmail.com
Rob Goodman, Newark, (740) 345-3233
Rowena and George Walker, Dayton, (937) 258-8317
Stacy Edwards, Hilliard, (614) 604-4126, (614) 319-4399 stacy@stacyedwards.com
 Website: www.stacyedwards.com
Steve Russell, Marengo, (740) 972-6729 steverussell@muscian.net
Steve Fyffe, Xenia, (937) 374-9032 stv4314@aol.com
Sword Family, Middleburg Heights, (440) 747-7436.
Terry Collins & Victory, Hillsboro, (937) 840-9808
The Castle/Maxwell Project, Grove City, Call Dan Castle 614/746-4982 or email castle.maxwell.project@gmail.com
The Blankenship Family, Mount Sterling, (740) 869-2423
The Family of God, Logan, Call Steve E. Goss (740) 603-1583
The Hambys, Dublin, (Southern Gospel) (614) 873-1215
The Spiritual Echoes, Circleville, Call Rick Moore (614) 595- 9776 or Delores Moore (614) 491-9502
Violet Maynard, Columbus, (614) 759-7486 violet@violetmaynard.com
Undivided, Grove City, Call Mike or Sheri France (614) 352-3368
Undivided96@aol.com

If you would like your group to be included, please send me your group name, what local FWB Church you are a member of, your address, and phone number. I will add you the list in the next issue of the *Ambassador*.

Happy New Year from the OYC.

We hope everyone has a blessed 2018. Here are a few 2018 dates to remember:



February 4 - Ohio Youth Sunday. The first Sunday in February is the day we ask churches around the state to focus on the youth, and the vital part they play in the life of your ministry. Hopefully, this is not the only day you let the youth know they are a part of the work, but this is a special day to really highlight what they do for the Lord. This is also a great day to receive a special offering to help support the OYC's effort to provide activities and college and Truth and Peace scholarships for the students of Ohio.

March 23—OYC Competitions Entry Deadline – Please have your competition entry forms postmarked or emailed by this date to make sure we have time to process everything and get back to you with any questions. Even if you cannot go to this year's National Convention, we encourage you to compete at the state level! Please send your entries to: **Deanna Price 2710 Dogwood Ridge Road Wheelersburg, Ohio 45694**
Email: dprice@stanbender.com.

Would you like to show others in the state of Ohio what your youth group has been up to in the last year or let us know a little more about your group? Be creative! Make a video (3 minutes max) by March 23 and email jason.luthy@gmail.com and let us know that you want to submit a video. Then you will be given instructions on how to submit it and, after review, we will show it at this year's OYC competitions. Feel free to email with questions! We had one video submitted last year, and would like to see even more participation this year so we can see what individual church and conference youth groups have been up to.

April 7 – OYC Ministry Expo – Heritage FWBC – Registration begins at 9:00 am. Competition begins at 10:00 am. OYC will once again provide lunch.

June 1 – OYC Scholarship Applications due – Remember, Ohio youth that participated in OYC Competition in age category D and are, or will be, attending any Free Will Baptist college are eligible to apply. Winners will be announced at the State Meeting in June.

June 22 and 23 – OYC Youth Services and activities – Heritage FWBC. Friday evening at 7 pm, we will have services for elementary age kids along with our junior/senior high students. Following our services, we will meet in the gym for pizza and games. We are looking to change up our after service activities. So stay tuned for further updates! The only thing each group needs to arrange is lodging. On Saturday morning, we will gather at 9 am for doughnuts and a final session. It should be a great weekend. Make plans now to be with us!

July 22-25 – National Association of Free Will Baptists and Vertical III Conference – Little Rock, Arkansas. The 2018 Theme is "Unseen" (Hebrews 11:1). Make sure you plan on supporting our Ohio competitors if you are in Little Rock for the convention.



Evangelist Mike Blanton

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LIBERTY (CUYAHOGA-LORAIN)

"All In" for Christ has been a continuing theme here at Liberty! We are so thankful for what the Lord is doing; we are seeing souls saved, healing of the sick, and feeling his presence during our worship services. With 2017 coming to an end and 2018 beginning we are excited to see what amazing things the Lord is going to do.

Please remember the families of Sister Phyllis Shirey and Sister Carol Waskey in your prayers. Isn't it a blessing to know that when a Christian passes away, we have a hope we will see them again one day. These ladies have been a blessing to our church. *"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith"* 2 Timothy 4:7.

We are rejoicing over the precious soul saved at our Good News Bible after school program at Barberton East Elem. School. At the beginning we had no kids sign up but God has blessed us with 30 young souls eager to hear God's word.

We also have a few exciting events that are coming up in the month of January. The men of our church will begin their basketball season. It will be a great opportunity to fellowship with other churches in our area.

Feb. 24th we will be having a youth rally for more information please contact Bro. Dustin Albright (330) 819-2499. Our church is also excited to announce All In Rallies Church Camp will be held June 4-8th. The theme for the youth camp will be "Finish Well" (1 Corin. 5:9).

There is always something exciting and new happening here at Liberty just as our life with Christ should be. We should never cease to thank Him and praise Him for all that He does. In 2018, instead of setting a resolution, look to the solution; His name is Jesus! May you all have a blessed New Year!

Until next time.

Cecil Farmer, Pastor
Chelsea Pomeroy, Reporter

CANAAN (CAPITAL CITY)

On Christmas Eve the **Canaan Celebration Choir** presented the cantata *"Celebrate the Gift"*. It was the perfect way to sum up what we have been doing the last two months of 2017.

In November we were privileged to be able to minister in hospitals, nursing homes, and local schools. We were honored to host a food distribution for our community.

In December we enjoyed Christmas plays and skits put on by numerous adults and children of all ages. The church Christmas dinner was also an opportunity to fellowship with extended family and friends.

As you begin your New Year celebrations, we would ask you to pray with us for Ellen Staples. Ellen is a very special lady in our church who has been diagnosed with a life threatening ailment. Please partner with us as we hold her family up in prayer and ask for the Lord's will to be done.

Mike Gladson, Pastor
Lisa Justice, Reporter

COMMUNITY SOMERSET

A blessed 2018 greeting to you all!

Nov. 5th and 12th. Bro. **Patrick Blevis** filled in for Pastor Scott who was ill. He also did Sunday School and both worship services.

Nov. 11th our women had their Christmas parts exchanging tree ornaments and sharing our favorite cookies, candies and fudge. We enjoyed listening to the "The Christmas Story. The fellows had breakfast in Zanesville at Golden Corral.

On Nov. 12 the Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes got on their way reaching to children of other countries.



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We had an all day event deboning turkeys at the Salvation Army in Zanesville. We served supper on the soup line to end a very busy day.

On Thanksgiving we served to some 400 people at the Salvation Army. We had the blessing of waiting tables and serving. It was great to see the Boy Scouts helping.

We went caroling Dec. 17th at Somerset

Nursing Home. **Ethan Hutchinson** accompanied us with his saxophone. What an uplifting spiritual blessing for everyone.

Ethan and Emily traveled to Uruguay Dec. 9th. They worshipped in Christ Church and visited people in La Ruta with an outreach of caroling at hospital and various other events there.

On Dec. 10th **Thomas Shelton** shared his tal-

Outlaw Family Update

Dear Friends and Partners,

For the past 10 years, our family has been training leaders in strategic places around the world to fulfill the great commission! It is amazing to see what happens when believers are equipped to understand the truths of Scripture and are challenged to take those truths to their unreached family, friends, and neighbors. The gospel takes root. The church grows. A legacy of Christ followers begins. We saw this first in Kazakhstan, and we've seen it in other countries like Cuba, Russia, South Korea, and Pakistan. While our overseas ministry began in Central Asia, God has allowed us to expand our reach by using Nashville as a launching pad for us to serve in other places around the globe.

Our ministry has always been fueled by Paul's admonition in 2 Timothy 2:2 to *"teach faithful men" who can "teach others also."* In Central Asia, we are able to teach men like "M", a young Kazakh church leader. Among his people, it is said "to be Kazakh, is to be Muslim." When ethnic Kazaks come to faith in Christ, they often face opposition from family and friends as well as pressure at work and in the community. It is important for "M" to understand Salvation, Sin, and the Holy Spirit, and to fully grasp the Scriptures, so that he will be able to withstand Satan's attempts to use his Muslim heritage and traditions to draw him back to Islam. He needs a strong biblical foundation on which to build his family, his ministry, and the church to be a shining light of Jesus to his people. This is true for "M" in Kazakhstan, but it's also true for all believers and churches around the globe. And that's where we come in!

Working through International Missions, we seek to strengthen the national church, her people, her leaders, and her outreach. This is being accomplished through theological training in Bible Institutes, church planting, and community projects that serve the neighborhoods surrounding local churches. We also continue to educate and equip stateside churches for greater global impact, so living in Nashville offers the most effective, efficient way to serve both in the U.S. and in locations we are needed abroad.

We are scheduled to start 2018 with pastoral training courses in Kazakhstan, South Korea, and Russia in the Spring. This is ONLY the beginning, as we have a year full of strategic trainings planned, serving over 100 leaders, each with their own ministries! What a privilege we feel for just our ONE family to be able to significantly impact so many towns and villages through our students. BUT WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOUR HELP! We are seeking churches and individuals who will give regularly to this ministry. In order to be fully funded, and get the "green light" to begin our 2018 ministries, we must raise \$2,500 in monthly support! Will you partner with us to fulfill the Great Commission?



ent with us. We enjoyed having him back. His ministry has taken him to all 50 states as well as 11 other countries.

Dec. 17th we had our adult Christmas program and soup dinner. The ladies brought their favorite soups and dessert. The church provided shredded chicken sandwiches. What a feast for a king! We had great fellowship.

The youth took care of services on Christmas eve.

May 2018 be good to you. Many blessings and good health.

Your family in Christ.

Scott Hutchinson, Pastor
Donna Barr, Reporter

UNITED (CAPITAL CITY)

Happy New Year from United FWB.

We have had four busy months, but first we want to thank God for seeing four of our young children saved. Three at the youth rally camp in Mansfield and one this past Sunday morning at church. A young couple, Jesse and Natasha Millard are obeying the Lord in that Jesse has answered the call to preach God's word. Please pray for Jesse and his wife as he starts his studies and work before the Lord.

We had old-fashioned day with Bro. **Paul Daniels** preaching and **Stoney Creek Gospel** to brought the special music. It is a sight to see all the men in bib overalls and ladies in their dresses and such. We followed the service with a fellowship that included beans, corn bread and all the side dishes you would want.

In November our Pizza, Prayer and a Movie ministry continued as we watched the movie *"The Christmas Candle"*. Nov. 26th the church was decorated in beauty as we welcomed in our Christmas season. Dec. 10th the ladies had their annual Ladies Christmas Party and gift exchange followed by a meal and picked their names for the secret sister for the following year. We went out Christmas caroling at our local nursing home. We were greatly blessed with the opportunity to sing for the elderly and sick.

Dec. 17th we had our Children's Christmas party, serving the lunch of their favorites: chicken nuggets, macaroni and cheese, etc. They had a time to make crafts, watch a movie and they all received a gift from Santa and Mrs. Clause.

To open our Christmas eve service, we had the children to do their Christmas play "A Lambs Tale" which turned out to be such a blessing. The children practiced so hard for this and it all showed on this day. We thank our Sunday School teachers Faye Griffith and Kelly Clay and all others involved for all the hard work they did for the children and our blessings.

We have had a great year and are looking forward to seeing what the Lord has in store for 2018. God bless you all.

Randy Keffer, Pastor
Faye Griffith, Reporter

CLEVELAND (CUYAHOGA LORAIN)

"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

Matthew 18:20

We had one person, Joseph Benyo, who has been added to our membership roll. We have kicked off our winter Sunday School quarter in hopes of bringing in new kids and families to our congregation. We are happy to announce that our attendance has tripled in the first 4 weeks of the quarter. Please continue to pray for our congregation to grow, and that we will always do as God commands.

We hope everyone has had a wonderful Christmas and a happy New Year!

Robert L. Prichard, Pastor
Kimberly R. Young, Reporter

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FAITH (CUYAHOGA-LORAIN)

"Serve the LORD with gladness. Come before his presence with singing." What a Friend we have in Jesus!

On Nov. 5th Bro. **Wade Spencer** sang in the evening service. It was a blessing to have him and his wife with us.

Bro. **Dale Channell** preached on Nov. 12th and we had one on the altar. It is always a blessing to see that.

November 13th Sis. Marilyn Hassink took some things to the City Mission from the church to help others have a better Thanksgiving.

Two of our young people lost their dad. Remember Matthew and MacKenzie in prayer.

Bro. **Freddie Ray** sang and preached in the evening service Dec. 3rd which was enjoyed by all.

We had our church Christmas dinner with good food and fellowship on Dec. 8th.

December 17th the church gave out treat bags (apple, orange and candy) after the morning service. We had our candlelight service on Dec. 23rd.

We thank God for our church. The Lord is still blessing.

Happy New Year everyone!

Lester McMahan, Pastor
Geraldine McMahan, Reporter

SWAUGER VALLEY (PINE CREEK)

Oh how He loves us. He meets our needs, He is what we need. How precious it is to reflect on God's gift to man, salvation, during the Christmas season.

Swauger Valley has been blessed this quarter as we have worshipped together. God has sent wonderful messages brought by our pastor **Mike Simpson, Scott Brafford** and **Garrett Fitch**.

Many of the congregation, of all ages, participated in our annual Christmas program sharing the scriptures of and leading up to the birth of **Jesus**. The youth also presented skits with many new members joining the team this year. We are excited to see what God has in store for this corner of the field in the coming New Year!

Make plans now to join us nightly for our 2018 Camp Meeting March 12-16th with **Mike McCoy** and **Chris Rumfelt** bringing the word and **11th hour, Joyaires** and the **Lore Family** ministering in song! May God bless!

Mike Simpson, Pastor
Laura Simpson, Reporter

FAITH FELLOWSHIP (FRANKLIN)

Greetings and Happy New Year. We hope you enjoyed the Christmas Season and are looking

forward to the New Year. Our annual Church Christmas dinner was held Dec 10th. We enjoyed lots of good food and fellowship. We had an "Ugly Sweater" contest, and a fun gift exchange game. Our Christmas Program was held on Dec 17th, with the praise team under the direction of Fran Cohn. The program included beautiful Christmas songs with a great message, celebrating the birth of Christ. The ladies held a "Cookie Exchange/PJ Party" the weekend before Christmas. There was a lot of fun with games, gift exchange and snacks. While the ladies enjoyed their cookie exchange, the men also enjoyed a night out for dinner and fellowship.

We pray that the New Year will find all our churches growing and winning lost souls. Please remember us in your prayers, as we remember you in ours.

Floyd Smith, Pastor
Barbi Johnson, Reporter

LOCKBOURNE (TRINITY)

Greetings from Lockbourne FWB Church. What a blessed time of year it is as we celebrate the birth of our Saviour, **Jesus Christ**. We had a wonderful time of food and fellowship at our Christmas dinner and a visitor in a red suit brought delight to the children. We thank Beulah Lawson and her team for always making these fellowship gatherings so special.

Our ladies' fellowship partnered with Children's Services as our Christmas outreach this year. It was a blessing to see love in action as church members purchased toys for children in our community who are struggling. It's a joy to know that we were able to meet the needs of some children in our city who might not otherwise receive gifts.

Christy Fields and her awesome helpers did a magnificent job with our Christmas program. We heard beautiful Christmas music and a wonderful portrayal of how **Jesus** was born in a manger in Bethlehem. It was inspiring to watch our children participate and our hearts were happy to see little Mary and Joseph, angels, shepherds and stable animals that actually talked and sang. Gratitude fills our hearts that God sent His Son to save the world.

We lost two wonderful sisters in our church family recently. We offer condolences to Kara Day on the loss of her mother, Louise and also to Mickey and Chuck Lively on the loss of Chuck's mother, Helen. May God comfort these families in their time of loss.

We send Christmas blessings and love to all and ask that you please pray for us at Lockbourne.

Leon Stevens, Pastor
Janelle Sagraves, Reporter

Available

FWB Ministers



The following ministers are available to fill the pulpit for pastors who have to be away from their church. Many are interested in conducting revivals as well.

Bill Alford, 20864 Rudy Dr. Strongsville, Oh 44149	(440) 572-1614
Lee Aldridge, 35180 SR 327, Londonderry, Oh 45647	(740) 887-4065
Anthony "Tony" W. Blackburn, Mechanicsburg, Oh	(614) 623-0031
Mike Blanton, 6826 Ridpath Road, Grove City, Oh	(614) 871-2795
Larry Brown, 6530 Gregg Mill Road, London, Oh 43140	(740) 852-0586
Chad Booth, 208 E. Washington Street, Ashland, Oh 44805	(330) 715-8403
Ron Brown, 5478 Riber Rd. Hillsboro, Oh 45133	(937) 402-4452
Roger Childers, 6555 US Hwy 68S Apt 208D, W Liberty, Oh 43357	(937) 869-4890
Steven Conn, PO Box 261, Hayesville, Oh 44838	(419-651-9639
Herman Copley, 1271 Lewis Road, Mansfield, Oh 44906	(419) 529-5923
Andrew Cordell, 418 West 7th Street, Marysville, Oh 43040	(937) 215-4037
Roger Crusie, 335 ½ N. 4th Street, Greenfield, Oh 45123	(937) 981-3529
Mike Daniel, 503 W Wenger Road, Englewood, Oh 45322	(937) 836-0540
Luther Dingess, 1680 Paddle Ck. Road, Fort Gay, WV 25514	(304) 648-5901
Freddy Dutton, 1700 Hale Court, Columbus, Oh 43228	(614) 276-0200
Michael Ellis, 575 Harland Drive, Columbus, Oh 43207	(614) 917-7309
James England, 5138 N. High Street, # 119, Cols. Oh 43214	(614) 846-6654
Ben Gibson, 1126 Cheyenne Ave. Springfield Oh 45503	(937) 399-2738
Packy Gibson, 7029 Fields Lane, Hillsboro, Oh 45133	(937) 393-2730
Randy Hall, 12024 Lake Front Drive, Hillsboro, Oh 45133	(937) 365-1657
Edwin Hayes, 7554 Slate Ridge Blvd. Reynoldsburg, Oh 43068	(614) 751-1190
Carl Jenkins, 2809 Searsdale Ave. Cleveland, Oh 44109	(216) 351-2475
James Johnson, 55 1/2 S. First Street, Rittman, Oh 44270	(330) 331-6088
Jason Jones, 620 Watkins Glen Blvd. Marysville, Oh 43040	(937) 241-1622
William Jones, 500 Buckeye Street, Marysville, Oh 43040	(937) 594-1331
Paul Keener, 703 Andrew Ave. Westerville, Oh 43081	(614) 891-4382
Robert Legg, 330 Winding Ridge Drive, Dayton, Oh 45415	(937) 648-9600
Alton Loveless, 1006 Rayme Drive, Columbus, Oh 43207	(573) 330-7728
Wayne Mays, 777 N. Drexel Ave. Hilliard, Oh 43019	(614) 607-0634
Tom Murphy, 229 Victorian Drive, Commercial Pt, Oh 43116	(614) 218-5435
Chris Oiler, 3299 SR 140, Wheelersburg, Oh 45694	(740) 357-8340
Tom Spradlin, Portsmouth, Oh (<i>FWB Family Ministries-Rep</i>)	(740) 776-6677
Alex Stevens, 2002 East Main Street, Greenup, KY 41144	(606) 473-5417
Talo Teo, 828 Federal Ave. Zanesville, Oh 43701	(740) 487-5735
Bill Turner, 150 Willard Ave. Carlisle, Oh 45005	(513) 746-5866
Tim Updike, 22661 SR 93, Wellston, Oh 45692	(740) 384-3277
Dan Widdig, 1496 Caldwell Road, Lucasville, Oh 45648	(740) 259-5160
Josh Young, 7227 E. Main Street, South Solon, Oh 43153	(937) 829-1723



GO GLOBAL

Missions Conference

Join us Saturday, March 17,

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- The Matt Price family – France
- David & Angie Outlaw – Creative Access
- Lazaro Riesgo – Educational Specialist
- Jerry & Barbara Gibbs – France
- Don Matchett – Director of Church Relations

A Luncheon will be provided.

**Sponsored by the Porter Association of Free Will Baptists,
and presented by Free Will Baptist International Missions.**



PROJECT FLAGSHIP

**Daryl Grimes
Family
Missionaries to
Erie, PA**

Sharp Decline in Support in 2017

First of all I want to thank all of you who have faithfully stood with us since we began traveling to raise money to come to Erie. It all began in August 2010 and we traveled thousands of miles and were in dozens of churches to share our vision for the Flagship City. Since then, so many of you have faithfully stood with us with your encouraging words, constant prayers and generous financial support.

In the last six years, since we have arrived in Erie, I have said very little about our personal account. Rather we have focused on raising money for our original building (paid off), the 2 1/2 acres of land that we purchased (paid off) and our Building Fund which we are still raising money for. However, the time has come to make our supporters aware of the needs of our personal account. It is from this account that I draw my salary and benefits. Over the last ten months our account balance has dropped over \$15,000! No, I am not panicking, but I am trying to discern God's plan to support my family and fund His work here until we are able to go "self-supporting."

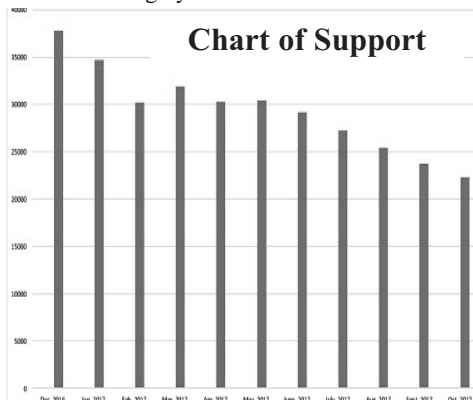
We are praying for a great move of God and an influx of people. As we grow, so will our offerings. As we grow we will get closer and closer to self-supporting status. Unfortunately, I believe we are still several years away from this goal.

If our account continues to decline at the pace it has been over the last 10 months our account will be depleted in just over a year. We realize we have some hard decisions ahead of us and need wisdom concerning God's plan for our future. Although I am not opposed to getting a full-time secular job to support my family, I believe this would only hinder the process of



becoming self-supporting.

Please pray about what you can do to help us stay focused on why God brought us here. Pray that God would give us wisdom and peace in the midst of this financial storm. We are resting in His sovereignty!



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Porter Association Report

The Porter Association met at the Madison FWB Church on November 18th. Our previous moderator, **Jimmy Dummitt**, pastor of Hamilton Glades FWB brought the morning devotion and spoke about the very basis of the Pilgrims coming to America and how, as a country, we have forgotten the Judeo-Christian principles upon which our country was established.

Madison pastor, **Rodney Evans** was elected as moderator and **Jimmy Dummitt** was appointed as assistant moderator.

Our guests were: **Robert Legg** (FWB Family Ministries) and **Paul Keener** (Ambassador Bible Bookstore manager). **Cecelia Lundy** (Harrison FWB) shared the events of the OWAC retreat.

After the regular business session, **Rodney Evans** led in worship. **Emma Stevens** and **Tonya Lykins** provided ministry through songs.

George Grice, pastor of New Hope FWB brought the morning message from Luke 5:12-14: "The Cleansing Savior."

The ladies of the Madison Church provided a delicious meal as everyone enjoyed a time of fellowship.

Our next special event will be **Saturday, March 17, 9 AM, at the Porter FWB Church**. FWB International Missions will be sponsoring a *Go Global Event* where "Missionaries and Mission staff collaborate in fast-paced, jam-packed, practical, seminar-style workshops to inform, inspire, and engage pastors and churches." Please join us!

BEECH GROVE (FRANKLIN)

Happy New Year to our fellow Christians.

Beech Grove Church has been collecting some Christmas gifts to help a child who has lost a parent to the plague of illegal drugs. This problem seems to be rampant everywhere. I hope the gifts give some comfort to this small child.

We made Christmas treats for our church family and sang the familiar Christmas songs as soon as December rolled around. After all we only have 25 days to sing those memorable songs.

Evangelist **Tim Case** presented a good message to us Dec. 10th and we were pleasantly surprised to see old friends visit us.

Eating out was the chosen activity via the Women's Guild, so Bob Evans was our destination the week before the holidays.

Our pastor, Bro. **Joe Pinkerton** attended the Franklin Conference in Columbus and enjoyed the fellowship and worship with his brothers in Christ.

Have a good year everyone and God bless you.

Joe Pinkerton, Pastor
Gloria Kidder, Reporter

CENTERBURG (CAPITAL CITY)

Another year has come and gone! The Lord has been so good to us in the past year. And it's time to celebrate another year in the Lord. Let us not make meaningless resolutions such as, weight loss, exercising more, ect. We should make one resolution. And that is to be better Christians, Christ-like. Let's exercise our knees more by kneeling to the Holy One, The Giver of Life. Begging that He saves our lost loved ones, before it's too late.

Things have slowed down here at Centerburg, the last couple of months. The construction of the new church has ended. We would like to thank Pastor Mark for his dedication to the Lord and to his flock. He was here every day of construction, making sure things were done properly. Plus doing all the other pastoral duties. He needed the rest. The Lord has blessed us with the greatest pastor!

We took up a special offering for audio and video equipment, for the sound room and nursery. And as always the Lord blessed above and beyond what was needed. We don't want to ever forget to thank Him for all his many blessings.

Our church is preparing for a trip to Pigeon Forge in April, to attend the Smokey Mountain

Camp Meeting.

We send our prayers up to the Lord, for you all, that this New Year will bring you peace and happiness. But most of all, that our Savior will draw our lost loved ones to Him.

Until next time, if the Lord should tarry.

Mark Tuggle, Pastor
Sandy McDowell, Reporter

HERITAGE (CAPITAL CITY)

Happy New Year from Heritage! We have enjoyed a wonderful Christmas season at our Church.

Our Thanksgiving was very special! It was a privilege to be a part of another community Thanksgiving service. This year The Columbus First Christian Baptist Church hosted. Area churches came together and worshiped together. Pastor Tim preached and our Men's Qt. sang. It was great to see the churches praise and worship the one true God.

December was full of activities. We had our Christmas Candlelight Service and what a beautiful service it was! Also this year, the children were part of the Christmas drama, "An Elf Kind of Christmas." The play was written and directed by our very own, Sara Owens.

Upward Basketball practices have already begun and we are looking forward to games starting the first Saturday in January.

As we look forward to the New Year we are excited about what God has in store for us! It is our goal to be the church God ordained for us to be!

Keep praying and working for souls to be added to the kingdom of God!

Tim W. Stout, Pastor
Stephanie Wolfe, Reporter

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Happy New Year, "2018"! Praise God that we are given another year to serve the Lord and follow His command by fulfilling "The Great Commission". My prayer for this year is to see people accept Christ as Savior! We were privileged to be with 35 churches in "2017". We finished the year of "2017" with around 200 people making altar decisions for many different needs. We thank God that people still heed the "Holy Spirit" and respond to His calling for their lives!

We are looking forward to this New Year with great anticipation! We would love to be with you for services this year and will be praying for you as you work and serve the Lord in the area where you are placed. I still feel very strongly that "America needs Revival"! This is the one hope for this nation. Please join with us in prayer to see an old fashioned revival sweep across our country.

May you be blessed with God's abiding presence this year! Thank you so much for all you do for us! We look forward to being with you this year.

For Revivals, Conferences, Homecoming and other special services, please contact me at the above address.



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FIRST SPRINGFIELD (FRANKLIN)

"For God so loved the world. that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him shall not perish, but have everlasting life."

John 3:16

Hello everyone.

Our Christmas Child shoe box collections was over 150. We are so thankful for being able to collect this every year, and the hard work of Leslie Phillips and her mother Denise Fraley.

Wade Spencer visited us in November sharing his ministry in his wonderful songs of the love of God and how He touches our lives every day.

December was full of Christmas dinners, Christmas parties, and Christmas programs. All reminding us of God's love for us by sending his only son to earth.

The youth went Christmas caroling after their party and visited some of the elderly of the church, I'm sure they brought a smile to their faces and hearts to see them and hear them sing. We are so blessed to have the love of our Heavenly Father and how He continues to bless us every day.

We pray that "2018" will bring peace, love and joy to each and everyone

Mark Rucker, Pastor
Linda O'Neal, Reporter)

GAHANNA (CORNERSTONE)

Happy New Year! We thank the Lord for his many blessings in 2017 and look forward to His blessings in the new year.

November started on a positive note with Rev. **Edwin Hayes** bringing a spiritual message to the congregation Sunday the 17th. He continues to be a blessing to Gahanna FWB Church.

The ladies auxiliary prepared Thanksgiving food baskets for twenty families. These twenty families also received food baskets and gifts for each family member at Christmas.

December 9th the ladies auxiliary prepared Christmas Dinner for the congregation. It was served in the fellowship hall and the Christmas Spirit was felt by all.

The Christmas program was presented by the children in junior church. The original Christmas story, the birth of **Jesus**, was received with much joy.

The New Year's Eve Nightwatch Service began with a worship service, followed by communion and feet washing. This is always a very spiritual service.

Please pray for the families of Sister Donna Holley, Sister Delsie Felix, Sister Nell Smith and Sister Joyce Mahr Bowen. They have gone home to be with their heavenly Father. They will be sadly missed by everyone at Gahanna FWB.

God bless and have a safe and healthy New Year in 2018!

Curtis Booth, Pastor
Bonnie Justice, Reporter

GRACE

Greetings from Grace FWB in Bedford. We hope everyone is doing well. We're here into the cold weather and the snow. Because of the cold weather we Christians should be willing to help those less fortunate than us, help those in need of food, and clothes or shelter, something we can always do is pray for the less fortunate, the homeless and those in need.

We hope everyone had a blessed and wonderful Christmas and celebrated our Savior's birth and the true meaning of Christmas. We hope you have a safe and blessed new year. In the new year, we need to continue to serve our Lord and do His work.

We pray for all of you and keep you on our hearts. We ask that you pray for us and our

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For leasing and information on the above camps call **Larry Glenn (937) 478-3815, Donna Glenn (937) 475-2710, Rev. Steve Nickels (937) 478-1182, Pastor Tim Hamilton (937) 559-1966** or E-mail us at timham@reagan.com.

2018 Camps
(To be announced)

Sr. Co-ed Camp (Ages 13-20 boys/girls) Jr. Boys Camp (Ages 8-13) Jr. Girls Camp (Ages 8-13)

Please let us know if you would like to view a camp presentation.

A ministry of Northridge Free Will Baptist Church, 4800 Payne Ave, Dayton, OH 45414

church. Our own Sis. Wanda recently fell and broke her hip, and is not doing well. We ask for special prayers for her and her family. Remember Bro. Dewayne's mother Lou and his sister's mother-in-law. She is in hospice not doing well. Bro. Nick still desires your prayers for his mom, dad and little sister. Sis. Linda's parents and Sis. Kathy's mom are in need of much prayer. Bro. Ed's brother is battling cancer and needs your prayer as well as for his own health issues. Bro. Bill desires prayer for his own health and for his daughter and grandkids. Many in our church are battling health issues. We desire your prayers for each of them and their families.

We give our Lord thanks for all He does for us; for our church and our pastor Bro. **Ed Purdy** and his wife Sis. **Linda**. They both are a blessing and a gift from our Lord.

Let's start the new year by being a light to the lost world. When people look at us they should

see a difference, see the Lord in us. As our pastor always says "Go out and witness, witness, witness and when you get a chance use words." Our actions should always shine a light for the Lord. Love and prayers from Grace FWB.

Ed Purdy, Pastor
Elaine Booth, Reporter

ANTIOCH (CENTRAL OHIO)

I hope everyone had a blessed Christmas celebrating **Jesus'** birth.

God delivered a great blessing for our church as our youth performed a live outside performance of the Christmas story. They did an awesome job, we are very proud of our youth and appreciate our youth leader Candy Valentine.

So many hats, mittens and scarfs were donated by our church family we were able to help three different missions this year.

Lorine Blankenship, Jim's mother went to be with the Lord on Dec. 21st. She was 99 years

old. She was saved in 1962. Her husband, was Rev. **Jesse Blankenship**, who left us in 1991. She has attended Antioch since his passing. A seat is empty which cannot be filled. But we know she is rejoicing in Heaven.

Please keep our pastor and my husband Jim in prayer, as he will have knee replacement surgery on January 9th.

We wish you a blessed 2018, but most of all we pray that this will be the year many of our loved ones and friends will give their heart to God.

God bless all till next time

Jim Blankenship, Pastor
Linda Blankenship, Reporter

ST. LOUISVILLE

Greetings in the name of our Lord **Jesus Christ** from the St. Louisville FWB Church. The Lord has certainly blessed our church.

Two precious souls were on the altar Sunday, Dec. 24th. The church set a record for Dec. 17th. We had 52 in attendance.

On Dec. 31st we had a communion and feet-washing service.

January 7th at 6pm Bro. **Joe Sparks** will be preaching and he will have singers with him.

Bro. **Dorsel Messick** will be preaching on Jan. 14th and on Jan 28th Bro. **Corey Carroll** will be preaching. Both services will be at 11am.

On March 3rd at 7pm we are having a songfest with **Sammy Stambaugh** and **God's Ambassadors** singing.

Please pray for our church that God will save those who are lost.

Come and be with us in our services with old fashioned preaching and singing and praising the Lord.

Until next time.

Jerry Owens, Pastor
Shane McCormick, Reporter



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Thought for the Month

In the beginning was the Word, and Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. John 1:1-2

REDEEMER (CENTRAL OHIO)

Happy New Year! We are eagerly looking forward to this year at Redeemer with a very real possibility of building a new sanctuary – at least we are actively talking about it. We are very excited for this next step for Redeemer, for reaching out into our community to reach a lost and dying world.

The Victory Trio will be our guest singers at the morning service January 14th. Please join us if you are in the area or if you know someone who lives near us that might like to visit Redeemer. Sometimes a special service is a good way to get a new person to attend church.

Our Children's March for Change raised \$872.00 from May through November this year which is being donated to Samaritan's Purse to purchase chickens and goats for underdeveloped countries.

Please pray for our church and its continued growth. And, if you're ever in the neighborhood, please stop by! We are always ready to meet new friends and hug old ones.

Mike Baldwin, Pastor
Nena Dillon, Reporter

COALTON (JACKSON)

Psalms 51:7 says, *"Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow."*

As I write this, the snow is falling and the temperature is cold but what a blessing to visualize the power of our God.

We enjoyed warm fellowship with our church family during our Thanksgiving and Christmas Dinners. We have some amazing cooks among us. The youth did a wonderful job in telling the Christmas story as they performed in the Christmas play. They also were inspirational in their voices when they went Christmas caroling to the elderly in the nursing home and assisted living facilities. They sang out with such pleasure. The elderly, as well of us present, enjoyed it.

We remain ever thankful for the faithful men who stand to deliver God's Word to us each week. Please continue to pray for our church that we will be a beacon to show God's love and forgiveness.

Tim Simpson, Pastor
Sandra DeHart, Reporter

BUCYRUS (NORTHERN OHIO)

Greetings from the Bucyrus FWB Church. Our church has been enjoying the sweet services we have had the last couple of months. People using the altar for healing, strength, courage for the battle, and SALVATION. God is so good. No, God is great!

We are thankful for all our ministers and visiting ministers: **Ferly Yates, Paul Parsons** and **Corey Carroll**. A special thanks to our Pastor **Lyle Arnett** and assistant pastor **Justin Feight**.

We had a beautiful Christmas program. Everyone worked really hard. We're thankful for everyone that took time to celebrate the birth of Christ. Buddy Feight was our director this year. Christmas caroling in the local nursing homes were a great blessing to us all. We went

to be a blessing to them and they were a blessing to us. That's our God.

Hope all your holy days are blessed.

Until next time keep us all in your prayers.

Lyle Arnett, Pastor
Phyllis Morgan, Reporter

PLEASANT HILL (CENTRAL OHIO)

"I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised." Psalm 18:3

We give all glory and praise to God who is blessing our church with new people in our services.

We have been busy with our ladies aid. They baked cookies for a bake sale Nov. 8th.

On Nov. 11th we had a brainstorming meeting. We came up with several things. We are having a prayer vigil on the 5-6th at noon.

On Dec. 8th our church made a float for the Delaware parade. The float was beautiful.

We had the adult Christmas party on Dec. 9th. We had a lot people. The ladies had an auction for the ladies aid.

We had our Christmas play on Dec. 17th. It was about angels appearances. It was such a heart warming play. When the pastor finished, a little boy said, "I want to give this to baby Jesus. It was an "angel" he made in Sunday School. This was not expected and touched many people!

As you can see, we have been working hard for the Lord!

May you all have blessed New Year!

Robert Franklin, Pastor
Marjorie Amdras, Reporter

WESTERVILLE (FRANKLIN)

We say "Happy Birthday" to our blessed Savior. We hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and a very blessed Christmas.

Our prayers went out to our Pastor **Paul Etterling** as he is doing well after having surgery in November. Please remember him in your prayers.

On Wednesday, Nov. 22nd we had our special service with our associate Pastor **Mike Sammons** bringing the message.

We have so much sickness in our church family. Please remember them in your prayers.

The WWAC had our annual cookie exchange on Dec. 12th at Sister Melissa Sammons' home. I think about 17 ladies participated. It was a fun and fellowship time.

On Dec. 13th the Pioneer Clubs had a candy cane Christmas party. The children always have a good fun time and learning about **Jesus**.

Our Oasis youth group had their Christmas party on Dec. 16th The young people are a blessing to us and so involved in what's going on at the church. Our youth of today is our church of tomorrow.

We had our Christmas Eve candlelight service on Dec. 24th. This is a very reverent time to celebrate our Lord's birth.

Until next time: Pray for our church family and our prayers will continue your way.

In Christ.

Paul Etterling, Pastor
Grace McKinster, Reporter



Let me begin by saying THANK YOU. I know those two words are said a lot through the Christmas Season. But, when we say thank you, this is what it means to us. It is meant for those who called, asking for the shoe & coat sizes of each child. It is meant for those pastors who are bringing their congregation and sharing the Christmas story with our kids. It is for those churches that are sponsoring our homes in both TN & AR, with gift cards, toys, & stocking stuffers. It is for those that helped cook a Christmas meal for the many families benefiting from the Hope Center. It is for our very own children in our care that made handmade ornaments and sang carols to the seniors at our Assisted Living Facilities. Again, to everyone who has opened their hearts to Family Ministries, who always make Christmas such a special time for our young people, WE THANK YOU!

We want to share a couple of exciting developments in progress. We are excited about expanding the ministry through our Foster Care Program in Tennessee. Everything about foster care is equal parts good and bad, joy and sorrow, beauty and brokenness. For a couple unable to conceive, Scotty & Jessica Jones prayerfully answered the call to become foster parents, allowing God to use them to invest in the lives of a sibling group of 3; Isabella, Gabriel & Chloe. The Jones' chose foster to adopt, and in January 2017, they began their 6 month journey to adoption, which became official August 2nd, 2017. What satan intended for evil, God meant for good and now brokenness to beauty has become a part of all their stories. Since May 2017, 14 kids have been adopted into their foster families, finding forever homes for these precious children. We do believe moving forward in this direction is in the best interest for the future of Family Ministries.

You may have also heard we are in the final phase of our fundraising effort for our proposed Maternity Home and appreciate those who have already financially committed to this project. Please prayerfully consider a special offering, mark your gifts "Maternity Home".



In closing, again we say thank you. Most of all, we thank you God for the greatest gift of all—your your darling Son, **Jesus Christ**, our Lord, our Savior, our Shepherd, King of Kings, and Lord of Lords!

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IM Board Year-end Meeting

The Board of Free Will Baptist International Missions met December 6-7, 2017, in the Antioch, Tennessee, offices. Board chairman **Jeff Manning** summed up the two-day meeting, saying, “This year’s board meeting brought tears to our eyes several times, not because of deficits or disturbances, but because of stories about the undeniable, providential hand of the Lord working in the lives of our missionaries, staff, and board members.”

The board heard reports from each of the leadership team, interviewed candidates, reviewed financial reports and budgets, considered and acted on proposals, approved handbook changes, and set the dates for the annual meeting in 2018 for April 16-17.

The reorganization of staff necessitated changes in the Mission’s Official Handbook of Operational Policies and Procedures. The board reviewed and accepted the proposed changes.

The December 2015 adoption of a designated-funding system with individual missionary accounts also required new policies. Missionaries who retire or resign often have a balance left in their accounts. The board voted to funnel any remaining funds into a “restricted reserves” account. Missionaries who resign or retire with a deficit account will have their deficit “erased” through the restricted reserves funds. At the end of each calendar year, any balance over \$50,000 in the restricted reserves account will be dispersed among missionary accounts at the direction of the general director and leadership team.

“The student debt crisis headlines news on radio and television as well as print. Candidates for missionary service are far from immune to the growing trend,” General Director **Clint Morgan** explained. “While the Mission continues to encourage candidates to make every effort to graduate without student debt, we also desire to provide a student debt relief system for those pursuing overseas, cross-cultural service with IM.” The board voted to allow (within parameters) missionaries to include a budgetary line item to offset student debt.

“By far the highlight of this year’s board meeting was hearing the intern candidates express how God has led them in each minuscule detail to overseas service,” Morgan stated.

The board approved two couples as two-year interns to work with **Heath** and **Joni Hubbard** in Tokyo, Japan. They plan to begin a bilingual (English/Japanese) church plant in the Tokorozawa City area of greater Tokyo. **Daniel** and **Shelby (Blake) Culwell** split their time between Arkansas and Tennessee. Daniel, a 2015 Welch College graduate with a degree in youth ministry and minor in business, also studied mechanical engineering at Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, Tennessee. Shelby completed a year at Welch College before transferring to Austin Peay where she earned a degree in graphic design with a business minor. The couple works with youth at Bethel FWB Church in Ashland City, Tennessee, and Mt. Bethel FWB Church in Rose Bud, Arkansas. The Culwells have two sons: two-year-old Easton and one-year-old Barrett. **Jack** and **Ashley (Carter) Kettelman**, both originally from Nashville, Tennessee, reside in Bristol, Virginia. A 2001 graduate of Welch College with a B.S. in Bible, music, and youth ministry, Jack serves as family pastor of the First Free Will Baptist Church in Bristol. Ashley, a registered nurse, attended Welch College for two years before transferring to Aquinas and graduating in 2006. The couple has three children: daughters Jane (10) and Callie (7), and son Carter (2).

The board approved **Daniel** and **Katie Speer** for a second two-year internship in Tokyo, Japan. Their first internship period ended in August 2017. However, their daughter Audrey’s battle with bacterial meningitis and other critical health issues, as well as Katie’s health struggles, complicated the last eight months of internship. After returning to the States, the Speers reaffirmed their desire to pursue career missionary service in Japan. The couple will work primarily with **Don** and **Ruth McDonald** at the Good News Chapel in Tokyo during this internship.

The board regretfully accepted **Dale** and **Sandra Bishop’s** request to retire. In a letter dated October 1, 2017, Dale and Sandra reflected on 44 years of service with IM saying, “It has been our privilege to minister with you for these many years.” The couple will live in Georgia and care for Sandra’s mother. They requested their retirement be effective as of December 31, 2017. “We desire your prayers for God’s wisdom and leadership as we venture into this next segment of our journey,” the couple wrote.

General Director **Clint Morgan** affirmed, “It is thrilling to see new missionaries join the team in Japan. This is especially important as we say goodbye to some long-time missionaries.”

The board approved an operational budget of \$6.35 million for 2018. Projected self-funded programs carry the total budget to \$9.9 million. IMpact projects, The Hanna Project trips and projects, student missions, etc. require fundraising separate from the operational budget.

All board members (**Jeff Manning**, chairman, NC; **Jeff Nichols**, vice-chairman, TN; **Mark Price**, secretary, OH; **Janice Banks**, OK; **Nelson Henderson**, AR; **Robert Posner**, TX; **Will Harmon**, AR; **Cameron Lane**, AR; **Rodney Yerby**, AL) were in attendance.



April 29, 2018

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Associate Church Planters Approved

Shane and **Jamie Suggs** have been officially approved by North American Ministries as Associate Church Planters to serve alongside **Josh** and **Ashley Bennett** in planting a new church in Tifton, Georgia. The Tifton work is a joint project between NAM and the Georgia state mission board.

Shane will immediately begin raising support and will be available to travel and share in services as of March 1st, 2018. Shane will serve as the Executive Pastor at Awaken Church, with specific duties in developing and training leaders, business management, and children’s ministry, as well as other pastoral roles and duties.

Shane previously worked in a church plant in Alabama and also pastored in Colquitt, Georgia. He currently works as a carpenter, and Jamie as a respiratory therapist. Shane and Jamie have two daughters, Grace and Eden. Grace is currently a high school senior and will be attending Welch in the fall (majoring in Missions), and Eden is a sophomore in high school.

“I am excited for **Josh Bennett** and the work in Tifton”, NAM Director of Church Planting **Brad Ransom** said. “Shane will be a great asset to the team.” Ransom also added that he continues to be impressed with the quality and experience of the candidates God is sending to the field through North American Ministries, and this “quality family” just adds to that legacy.



Pastor Rick Cason and Ebenezer FWB Church give Record North American Ministries Offering of \$20,000.00!

We are so thankful for the mission emphasis of this great church. We are thankful for all the churches that took offerings for “Mission North America Day” on November 19th, and to those that support us all through the year.



God is doing some great things through NAM and all of you that have supported us are a big part of all that God is doing!

Hospital Update



First Dayton FWB Church Treasurer, Sister **Mary Webb** had surgery in November and is currently convalescing at home.

Rev **Bill Moore** from Woodstock was in the ICU at Kettering Hospital Nov. 3rd. He is now home and recovering well.

First Dayton FWB Trustee Dan Robinette's wife, **Salona Robinette**, had surgery in December and is recuperating at home.

Rev. **Dave Bates**, longtime pastor of Galion Unity FWB Church underwent liver transplant surgery Nov. 5th in Columbus. He is now home recovering and doing well.

First Dayton lay minister, Bro. **Toney Easterling** has health issues.

Rev. **Paul Etterling**, pastor of the Westerville FWB Church underwent surgery November 8th at Riverside Hospital in Columbus. He is now home and doing well.

Deacon **Delmas Sargent** of the Reynoldsburg FWB Church underwent surgery November 10th. He is the father of Reynoldsburg Pastor Jerry Sargent and Westerville Deacon Gary Sargent.

New Hope Pastor Bro **Wendell Combs** was admitted to Adena Hospital in Chillicothe, November 15th with extremely high blood pressure. He is now home recovering.

Cheri Hayes, wife of Hillview Pastor Bill Hayes had surgery November 3rd at Riverside Hospital. She is now home doing well.

Grover Van Hoose, clerk of the North & Western Conference was admitted to the Promedica Hospital in Toledo for tests.

Daniel Castle, a member of the Chapel Hill FWB Church underwent open-heart surgery November 29th at Grant Hospital in Columbus. Daniel is the son of Ohio Association Bookkeeper Ruth Ann Castle. He is now home and doing well.

Fredia Street, wife of Woodstock Pastor Russell Street is responding well to treatment after her bone marrow transplant.

Rev. **Harold Young**, brother to Sister Jeannie Castle from the Westerville Church and also brother to the late Rod Young, deacon at the Westerville Church had surgery in Southern Ohio on December 14th.

Rev. **Garry Sorrell**, pastor of the Sand Hill Church took a serious fall and had surgery.

Rev. **Ed Crane** from the Beech Grove Church

had hip replacement surgery. He does assist Pastor Joe Pinkerton.

Bro. **David Orrell** from the Gahanna Church had hip replacement surgery on November 30th. He is recovering well at home.

Bro. **Robert Murnahan** from the North Church had emergency surgery December 20th at Riverside Hospital and was in ICU.

Sister **Barbara Shaw** from the Fairview FWB Church was taken to University Hospital in Columbus. She is now home recovering. She is the wife of Bro. Dick Shaw who takes care of medical issues at the Ohio Men's Retreat.

Sister **Pat Booth**, wife of Gahanna FWB Pastor Curtis Booth fell and broke her arm in several places. She is facing surgery.

Sister **Gayle Rapp**, former employee of the Ambassador Bookstore took a fall on Christmas Eve and broke her leg. She was in Riverside Hospital in Columbus.

Sister **Loraine (Lady) Coleman** from the North FWB Church took a fall and was taken to the Riverside Hospital.

Rev. **Jim Blankenship**, pastor of the Antioch Community Church is undergoing knee replacement surgery on January 9th.

REYNOLDSBURG (FRANKLIN)

Love one another, *"This is my commandment, that ye love one another, as I have loved you."* John 15:12. As 2017 ends, we are looking forward to 2018 and what the Lord has in store for our church. We had a wonderful Thanksgiving and Christmas season. We've had good attendance and are very thankful for the visitors we have had.

Nathan Stepp was able to be home just in time for Christmas from the Army. He is returning to Missouri the first of the year. Please keep him in your prayers.

Rev. **Tyler Penn** will be preaching for us during our Sunday morning service on January 21st.

At the end of the Easter season last year, some decided for 2018 we could have a "Giant Egg Hunt". Several went from store to store and we have collect over 12,000 eggs!! Pray for us as we begin to plan this for the Reynoldsburg area.

Jerry Sargent, Pastor and Reporter

WOODSTOCK (CENTRAL OHIO)

As we end this year, we think back on all the things that took place. We've had joyful moments with folks saved, we've had sad times with folks very ill and some passing away, we've had broken hearts with our pastor's wife being diagnosed with leukemia and thankful hearts when Sister Fredia was declared leukemia free!

This year has been like a roller coaster ride of ups and downs, but I think it has made us all stronger and more determined than ever to make heaven our eternal home. God has been with us and seen us though all of this. He has given us services that are Holy Spirit filled with people minding the Lord with testimonies and singing and our ministers and Pastor giving us God's word to encourage and uplift us. Thank you Lord for your blessings on us.

Happy New Year to everyone and be determined to do more for the Lord and "win the lost at any cost".

Russell Street, Pastor
Virginia Jones, Reporter

Greetings from the Ohio Women Active for Christ State Board.



Ohio Women Active for Christ

News and Upcoming Events

As we end 2017, we would like to give you info on what God allowed us to be a part of in 2017. We have 12 churches that are a part of the OWAC organization with a membership of 107. We gave \$10,762 to missionary causes. We did fall short of our State Project goal of \$6,500. We collected \$3771.00 toward the goal. Our 2018 State Project is \$6,000.

We have been raising money for the **2019 National** that will be held in Cincinnati for several years. We currently are just over \$22,000 and would like to raise an additional \$3,000 for this.

Our annual Women's Day events will be held again this spring. Our Southern Ohio Women's Day will be at the Porter Church on Saturday, April 28th and the Northern Ohio Women's Day will be May 19th at the Rittman Church. Both of the events will begin at 9:30 AM. The classes offered at these Women's Day events will be...

The Proverbs 31 Woman; what does she look like today.

Responsibility to your church family; are you contributing enough?

Loving the difficult like God does.

Fasting; focus on God.

Food in the church; feed them and they will come.

Bible Journaling; take your study to the next level

Our State meeting speaker will be **Missy McKenzie**, home missionary to Ashland in June.

Our "BIG NEWS" for 2018 is a change in our **OWAC Retreat location**. On Friday, October 12th we will be going to Amish Country and staying at the Berlin Grande Hotel in Berlin. More information on this will be coming soon. We have a limited number of rooms and we need your reservations in ASAP. Our speaker for this is **Kellie Penn**, international missionary to Champaign Illinois. You can contact Jeannie Sargent with reservations.



We are looking forward to 2018 and all that God will allow us to be a part of.

UNION (PINE CREEK)

As we close out the year 2017, we have much to reflect on and to praise God for. Union has indeed been abundantly blessed by our heavenly Father.

We are proud to announce that **Zack Conkel** has taken on the role of pastor at Union. We are most thankful for the willingness he has shown in heeding the Lord's call to this ministry.

We enjoyed another wonderful Christmas dinner and were beyond blessed by the music of Wheelersburg High School Choir. Thank you to Lynn Chamberlin and Ashley Chamberlin for graciously volunteering their time and energy to coordinate the annual Christmas Food Basket drive. Because of their efforts and the incredible generosity of our church family, we were able to provide Christmas presents and food baskets for many in our community. Thank you to Crystal Conn and Karlene Thompson for their tremendous work and dedication in once again directing the children's Christmas play. All who had the privilege to attend were truly blessed by the magnificent performances of our children.

We are looking forward to an even better and more successful 2018. Please pray with us that

we can continue to grow and be the church that our Lord has called us to be.

Zack Conkel, Pastor
Lisa LeMaster, Reporter

Co-op
Supports
ALL
Our
Ministries

Welch College Celebrates 75 Years with New Campus Dedication

Over 900 people gathered at Welch College recently to dedicate its new campus and celebrate 75 years of service to Christ's kingdom, according to Welch President **Matt Pinson**. Guests at the September 29 celebration included alumni, donors, denominational leaders, local and state political figures, Free Will Baptist supporters, local community leaders, and academic representatives from various institutions of higher education.



"Our people were there to celebrate three quarters of a century of God's goodness and faithfulness," President Pinson said. "They came to celebrate the culmination of a vision for campus relocation that spread over two presidential administrations at Welch. And they came to celebrate a future that is exciting and promising."

The celebration began with an academic convocation, which was immediately followed by a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Leaders from the Free Will Baptist denomination, community and governmental leaders, and higher education representatives expressed words of gratitude and commendation, and hymns and songs resonated from the audience, college choir, and alumni choir.

Following a barbecue luncheon under a tent on the quadrangle, guests enjoyed campus tours, a musical concert, children's activities, and alumni reunions. The day ended with an encore presentation of *The Slipper and the Rose* performed by the Welch College Drama Department and Choral Union.

The public phase of the Building on the Legacy campaign was formally announced at the celebration, with the unveiling of the Pave the Way brick campaign. The campaign provides the opportunity for bricks to be purchased and installed at a future time on the Gallatin campus. Bricks are \$250 and can be purchased in memory of, in honor of, or in the donor's name. More information can be found at buildingonthelegacy.com.

To see videos of the dedication ceremony and events, please visit welch.edu/dedication.

Welch College Announces Grand Opening of Student Activities Center

The Grand Opening of the Welch College Student Activities Center is scheduled for Friday, November 10, according to President **Matt Pinson**.

Friends and members of the Welch College community are invited to celebrate with an evening of festivities. A brief grand opening ceremony will begin at 4:00 p.m. followed by a tailgate party and cookout at 5:00. The Flames basketball team will then play the first game in the brand new gymnasium as they face St. Louis Christian at 7:00.



The Student Activities Center houses the gymnasium, coffee shop, student recreation area, and fitness center. A tour will be given following the 4:00 ceremony.

"We invite all our friends to come celebrate this wonderful occasion of the completion of the Student Activities Center, which also marks the conclusion of phase one of the construction of the new Welch campus," President Pinson said. "The students have been eagerly anticipating the opening of this new facility that will be at the center of student life. It's going to be great to have our first Flames basketball game in the new facilities in conjunction with Welcome Days."

To see photographs of the new campus and get information about giving toward the funding of this effort, visit Buildingonthelegacy.com.

Gallatin, Welch College Home, Voted "Nicest Place in America 2017"

On October 10, *Reader's Digest* named Gallatin, Tennessee, "Nicest Place in America 2017," according to President **Matt Pinson**.

Reader's Digest launched the "Nicest Place in America" contest in April 2017 in partnership with the private social network, Nextdoor. Hundreds of communities were nominated, with only ten locations chosen for voting. These ten cities received almost 80,000 votes, with more than 30,000 cast for Gallatin.

Reader's Digest cites Gallatin's faith communities and racial unity as the main reasons for Gallatin's "Nicest Place" title. This was specifically showcased in the city's reaction to a tragic police shooting, when nearly 100 community members gathered for a prayer vigil.

Founded in 1802, Gallatin has been transformed from a farm community to a booming suburban city. Despite its fast growth, Gallatin continues to maintain the traditional hospitality of a southern town. "Gallatin's southern charm is one of its remarkable traits," Pinson said. "Its commitment to the well-being of its citizens, its friendliness to the Christian community, and its support of nonprofit charity and service work make it a great fit for Welch College."

"There's no doubt that the Welch campus community both contributes to and benefits from Gallatin's positive reputation. With over 10,000 hours of annual community service, local church involvement, and student job placement, Welch College will continue to serve Christ, His Church, and His world in Gallatin."

To read more about the "Nicest Place in America," pick up the November issue of *Reader's Digest* or visit www.rd.com/nicest.

Welch College Appoints Todd and Merinda Parrish to Advancement Roles

Reverend F. Todd Parrish has been named Director of Church Relations and Major Gifts Officer, and his wife Merinda has been named Major Gifts Liaison at Welch College, according to David Williford, Vice President for Institutional Advancement. Parrish is currently Senior Pastor of First Free Will Baptist Church, Washington, North Carolina, and Mrs. Parrish is a national board certified English teacher at Bear Grass Charter School in Bear Grass, NC. The Parrishes will complete their current responsibilities in December of this year and will assume their duties at Welch in January.



"Todd and Merinda will bring their infectious excitement about the ministry of Welch to their new roles here," said Williford. "Their church has sent 12 students to Welch College in the past 4 years, including both their daughters. The Parrishes have been active in fundraising, friend-raising, and alumni work for Welch for years. Now they will step into a role where they will do that professionally. I'm excited about what they'll add to our presence in the denomination and with donors."

A North Carolina native, Parrish has served in his current pastorate since 2012. He currently serves as Assistant Moderator of the North Carolina State Association of Free Will Baptists and Vice President of the Welch College Alumni Association. Parrish was ordained under the ministry of Dr. Malcolm C. Fry. A 1989 Welch graduate, he obtained his M.A. in Mental Health Counseling from Webster University in 2010 and is currently completing the M.A. in Theology and Ministry from Welch. Parrish started as a youth and music minister and for the past two decades has pastored Free Will Baptist churches.

Merinda, a native of Alabama, grew up in a pastor's home. A 1991 Welch graduate, she and Todd met while they were students at Welch and married in 1990. She has taught in Christian and public schools for the past 21 years. She holds an M.A. in Secondary Education/Literacy-Reading Specialist from the University of Alabama.

"Merinda and I are looking forward to this new challenge," Parrish said. "We believe in the mission of Welch College and are convinced that God has used our college to set the course for the Free Will Baptist denomination by being its main source of pastors, missionaries, and key lay leaders."

"As we begin a new chapter on a new campus, we are excited about how God will help us chart new waters while staying firmly committed to our theological tradition and heritage as Free Will Baptists," Parrish continued. "I'm eager to meet with pastors regarding what Welch College can do for their congregations, and how they can help the college build a stronger financial base and increase enrollment, and I'm excited about the opportunity to cultivate more friends for Welch who will partner with us financially."

The Parrish's older daughter, Emily Vickery, and her husband Zach, reside in England, where Zach is a graduate student at Cambridge University. Their younger daughter, Ellen Stox, and her husband Kevin, reside in Bristol, TN, where Ellen serves as a social worker with Free Will Baptist Family Ministries, and Kevin teaches and coaches at the Tennessee Avenue Christian Academy.

Ohio State Office and Ambassador Magazine email address: ehayes@ambassadorbible.com

Web Site: OhioFWB.org

Ambassador Church Supply email address: pmkeener@ambassadorbible.com

Why I Believe in the Co-op Plan

The Co-op plan was adopted for Ohio FWB Churches back in 1974. It is designed to support all Ohio State and National ministries. It places us all together. I believe that it has been a blessing to our state. Let me mention several ministries we in Ohio enjoy because of the Co-op Plan--The Ohio Men's Retreat--Team Church--The Ohio Bible Institute--Our Pastor to Pastors--Why I am a FWB Lesson--Revitalize Your Sunday School Workshops--Ohio's Pastors Retirement Program--Ohio State Missions--Ohio Youth Conference--International Missions-- National Home Missions--FWB Bible College and many more.

One of the reasons I like this plan is that it allows us to all be blessed together when the offerings at the local church are up and all bear the burden together when they are down.

A second reason is that Co-op supports the whole cause and all FWB ministries are supported. I believe it would be safe to say that without the churches supporting the Co-op Plan, we would not have an Ohio State Office, Staff or Ambassador Church Supply.

A third reason is that Co-op is the same method we use to support our local churches. We give our offering to the church and allow it to be distributed as the local church so desires. The Co-op Plan does the same on the state level.

Fourthly, it allows us to make decisions together. We meet every year at the Ohio State Meeting and vote on how to distribute the Co-op receipts. Every church has a voice.

Lastly, it allows every dollar I give to my local church to be used to touch every State and National FWB Ministry. The local church I am a member (Westerville FWB) gives a percentage of all undesignated offerings to the Co-op Plan and has for years. All of my tithes given to the Westerville Church, I realize a percentage is used to support every Free Will Baptist ministry we have. I am grateful to have this opportunity to give.

I would like to encourage all of our churches to consider doing your part to support your state and national ministries through the Co-op Plan.

Edwin Hayes

FAITH (SOUTH CENTRAL)

Greetings from Faith FWB Church!

We would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year!

The busy holidays are over and it's time to focus on what we can achieve this year for God.

On Saturday, November 4th Jay and Mary Farley hosted a teen cookout. It was a night of good food, laughter, and listening to an important lesson from Pastor Tony. Everyone was given an opportunity to share their salvation story. (*sal.vation – deliverance from sin and its consequences, believed by Christians to be brought about by faith in Christ.*) That is something to shout about!

On Monday, November 13th, the ladies of the church met for a packing party. There were 36 boxes prepared for shipment for Operation Christmas Child! At the next service, we laid the packages on the altar for prayer. It is a

rewarding ministry.

On Wednesday, November 15th, we had our church Thanksgiving dinner and a time of worship following the dinner. It was a good time of food, fellowship, and enjoying praising our God together.

After the passing of Bro. Gary Walton back in June of 2017, we had donations that come into the church to honor his memory. We used part of this money to purchase new hymnal books for the church. Inside each book, it says "This hymnal is given to the glory of God In Memory of Gary E Walton."

We are thankful for God's blessings on our church and in our lives. We ask His blessings on all of you.

In His service.

Tony Vanover, Pastor
Teresa Gibson, Reporter

Do you know who's working for you? by John Hanna, CIC



How well do you know your church's employees and volunteers? If they don't undergo a comprehensive background screening, the answer may

not be as clear as you think. Background screening is an essential part of keeping your ministry safe.

A proper screening process consists of the following:

Written application.

An application form should require the applicant to provide basic personal information, at least two personal references, and criminal history, among other information. The application should also ask the applicant to give permission to perform a background check and to contact his or her references.

Background check. Use an outside firm that is reputable and accurate. A thorough background check will search

county, state, and national databases, as well as sex offender databases. If the job duties include driving, be sure to search BMV records as well.

References. The most useful references come from previous churches or employers. References can provide an additional perspective of the applicant's character.

Personal interview. A conversation can give you a feel for the person's personality. It's a good idea to ask why the individual applied for the specific position, and to ask about any issues that references may have raised.

All new and current employees and volunteers should be subject to background screening. Everyone should be re-screened at least every 3-5 years.

I hope you find these tips useful. As a ministry insurance specialist, helping churches with their insurance and risk management needs is a personal ministry to me. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of service in any way.

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Information at Martin Denes Ministries

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Chillicothe, OH 45601

740-701-2124

dramaking48@yahoo.com

{drama for the King}

My board: Pastor Jim Steele, Pastor Mitch Salyers, Mrs. Sue Morgan

Coming Events

For Ohio Free Will Baptists



State-Wide

January 18-20
Ohio Men’s Retreat, Heartland Retreat Center

February 3
March 10
Central Ohio
Trinity Conference meeting at Lockbourne FWB, Leon Stevens, Pastor
Franklin Conference Alternative Classes

January 13
February 17
Northern Ohio
Cuyahoga-Lorain Conference meeting at Mansfield FWB, Mark Bailey, Pastor
Northern Ohio Conference

January 27
February 3
February 10
February 10
Southern Ohio
Jackson Conference meeting at Rutland FWB, Ed Barney, Pastor
Lawrence Conference meeting at Brookdale FWB, Jeremy Simpson, Pastor
South-Central Conference meeting at First Chillicothe FWB, Mitch Salyers, Pastor
Pine Creek Conference meeting at Swauger Valley FWB, Mike Simpson, Pastor

January 13
Western Ohio
Tri-State Conference meeting at Lighthouse FWB, Bobby Courtney

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OHIO MEN’S RETREAT

January 18-20, 2018

SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, January 18th

1:00 PM	Registration
3:30 PM	Jason Meade
5:00 PM	Evening Meal
7:00 PM	Dan Whisner

FRIDAY, January 19th

7:30 AM	Breakfast
9:00 AM	Curtis Booth
10:00 AM	Break
10:30 AM	Dan Whisner
12:00 PM	Lunch

Free Time for Prayer, Rest and Recreation

3:30 PM	Attendance Awards
3:45 PM	Troy Sadowski
5:00 PM	Evening Meal
6:30 PM	Representatives
7:00 PM	Dan Whisner
8:00 PM	Mark Price, Moderator

Testimonies and Prayer in Individual Rooms

SATURDAY, January 20th

7:30 AM	Breakfast
9:00 AM	Eugene Crouch
10:00 AM	Dan Whisner

Dismiss until next year

OHIO TOGETHER WAY RECEIPTS

November-December 2017

	CO-OP	AMBASS	ST MISSN	ST ASSOC	OYC	SPEC MIN	NATL MINIST	TOTAL
AMBASSADOR	\$ 323.00	\$ -	\$ 323.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,488.00	\$ 2,134.00
ANTIOCH	\$ -	\$ 12.00	\$ 40.00	\$ 150.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 60.00	\$ 262.00
BETHESDA CHAPEL	\$ 150.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 430.00
BUCYRUS	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100.00
CALVARY-RAVENNA	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30.00	\$ 50.00
CANAAN	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 133.34	\$ -	\$ 366.66	\$ 1,550.00	\$ 2,550.00
CANAAN LAND	\$ 400.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,300.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 3,900.00
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP	\$ -	\$ 20.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 400.00	\$ 420.00
CLEVELAND	\$ 203.00	\$ -	\$ 80.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 185.00	\$ 275.00	\$ 743.00
COLUMBUS FIRST	\$ 468.66	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 468.66
COMMUNITY-SOMERSET	\$ -	\$ 25.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25.00
COMPASSION	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 110.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 110.00
CORNERSTONE-MANSF	\$ -	\$ 20.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 240.00	\$ -	\$ 390.00	\$ 325.00	\$ 1,075.00
EASTSIDE	\$ 150.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 150.00
FIRST CHILlicothe	\$ 957.89	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ 1,157.89
FIRST DAYTON	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50.00
FRANKLIN CONFERENCE	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 800.00
GARDEN CITY	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
GOOD HOPE	\$ -	\$ 35.00	\$ -	\$ 143.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 178.00
HARRISON	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,138.00	\$ 1,538.00
HERITAGE	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 680.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 5,229.92	\$ 6,409.92
HIGH STREET	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,020.00	\$ 1,020.00
HILLSBORO	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100.00
HILLVIEW	\$ 1,098.81	\$ 10.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,434.02	\$ 2,542.83
JACKSON CONFERENCE	\$ 25.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25.00
LAWRENCE CONFERENC	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100.00
LIGHTHOUSE	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 250.00
MARYSVILLE	\$ -	\$ 25.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25.00
MCARTHUR	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 250.00	\$ 300.00
MOUNT CALVARY	\$ 50.00	\$ 30.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 80.00
NEVILLE	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ 400.00
NEW BEGINNINGS-MANS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 207.00	\$ 175.00	\$ 582.00
NEW HOPE-LUCASVILLE	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 300.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 600.00	\$ 900.00
NEW ROAD	\$ 808.00	\$ -	\$ 40.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 460.00	\$ 1,308.00
NORTH	\$ 1,211.86	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 497.41	\$ 1,709.27
NORTH & WESTERN CON	\$ 116.70	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 335.00	\$ 651.70
OAK HILL	\$ 52.35	\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 102.35
OHIO WOMAN'S AUXILIAF	\$ -	\$ 2.00	\$ 7.89	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9.89
OLD KYGER	\$ 300.00	\$ 45.00	\$ 300.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 645.00
PINE CREEK	\$ -	\$ 30.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30.00
PINE CREEK CONFERENI	\$ -	\$ 30.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 80.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 150.00	\$ 275.00
PINE GROVE	\$ 100.00	\$ 40.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 140.00
PORTER	\$ 900.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 561.50	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 120.00	\$ 1,641.50
PORTER CONFERENCE	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ 350.00
PURITAN	\$ 279.30	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 279.30
REYNOLDSBURG	\$ 300.00	\$ -	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 450.00
ROSEDALE	\$ 790.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 790.00
SAMANTHA	\$ 1,164.35	\$ -	\$ 398.91	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20.00	\$ 245.70	\$ 1,828.96
SCIOTO	\$ -	\$ 30.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30.00
SCIOTODALE	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,406.00	\$ 1,406.00
SOUTHWEST	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200.00
SPRINGFIELD	\$ 830.00	\$ 60.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 250.00	\$ 1,140.00
SWAUGER VALLEY	\$ 300.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500.00
TICK RIDGE	\$ 50.00	\$ 20.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 70.00
TRINITY CONFERENCE	\$ 38.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 38.00
TURKEY CREEK	\$ 150.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 150.00
UNION	\$ 1,093.00	\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,143.00
UNITY	\$ 400.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 550.00	\$ 950.00
URBANA	\$ 1,210.10	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ 1,410.10
VICTORY	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200.00
WAKEFIELD	\$ -	\$ 20.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 24.00	\$ 44.00
WESTERVILLE	\$ 1,942.25	\$ -	\$ 215.81	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 669.62	\$ 1,330.42	\$ 4,158.10
WESTSIDE	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100.00
WOODLAND CHAPEL	\$ 1,690.36	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,690.36
WOODSTOCK	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
OTHER GIFTS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 150.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ 390.00	\$ 590.00
TOTAL FROM GIFTS	\$ 19,602.63	\$ 1,594.00	\$ 3,887.11	\$ 2,651.34	\$ 100.00	\$ 5,288.28	\$ 20,833.47	\$ 53,956.83
RETREAT	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,620.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,620.00
INTEREST	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,861.63	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,861.63
RANDALL HOUSE COMM	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,578.82	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,578.82
BOOKSTORE SALES	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,067.51	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,067.51
SERVICES	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,016.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,016.00
ADVERTISERS	\$ -	\$ 64.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 64.00
MISC INCOME	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 415.07	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 415.07
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	\$ -	\$ 64.00	\$ -	\$ 8,559.03	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,623.03
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 19,602.63	\$ 1,658.00	\$ 3,887.11	\$ 11,210.37	\$ 100.00	\$ 5,288.28	\$ 20,833.47	\$ 62,579.86

FIRST DAYTON (LITTLE MIAMI)

First Dayton has been truly blessed in 2017 to see the congregation nearly double in size and added a few new members. We are looking forward to 2018, praying God will continue to bless and enable us to broaden our Sunday School program. Monthly we've attempted to have special services with guest singers or preachers. We also post the weekly singing and preaching on our FaceBook at www.facebook.com/FirstDaytonFreeWillBaptistChurch/.

In Oct.-Nov. we collected Christmas gifts for the FWB Family Ministries. The outpouring of donations was nothing less than awesome! For December-January donations we will be collecting bed and bath (linens, pillows, bathroom necessities, toiletries, etc.) and diapers.

Bro. **Edwin Hayes** preached in the Nov. 12th am service. He did a great job sermonizing Matthew 16, *"Who do you say that I am?"* We also honored our veterans Terry Dixon, Tony Easterling, Fred Keeton, Mark Long, Joe Palmer, Dan Robinette, Barb Rowlette, and Ezekiel Vanmeter for their service to God and our country. Sure does make us proud to be Americans!

We delivered 22 fruit baskets to the home-bound, nursing homes and widows for Thanksgiving. What a blessing to see the smiles on their faces!

In Dec. Pastor Long started a weekly radio program called "Sunday Mornings with Jesus" on WGNZ 104.3 FM/1110 AM, 8:00-8:30 am with some gospel music and preaching. Pastor Long also plans on playing a portion of Bro. Hayes Nov. sermon in a future broadcast. Stay tuned! We enjoyed a Christmas dinner and cantata. There are so many ways to worship God!

Mark Long, Pastor
Regina Long, Reporter

OAK HILL (JACKSON)

Greetings and we wish everyone a happy and blessed New Year. We praise and thank God for His many blessings in 2017 and we are excited to see what the new year holds. God is so good.

We had a Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner combined on Dec. 3rd. Bro. **Danny Boggs** preached the morning service and Bro. **Allen Simpson** preached in the afternoon. Everyone enjoyed the good food and had a wonderful day of fellowship.

The Lord blessed us so we could bless others in our community. We were able to pass out several food boxes at Thanksgiving.

We're thankful for our visiting preachers. Bro. **Tim Simpson** preached on Nov. 23rd and 25th. **Steven Blagg** preached on Dec. 6th.

Until next time may God bless everyone.

Allen Simpson, Pastor
Sandy Clark, Reporter

BEATTY (LITTLE MIAMI)

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior **Jesus Christ**. We enjoyed the Christmas season of the year and we are so glad He came to this earth to save us from this awful world we live in. He is so precious in our lives. We can't praise Him enough.

Our church is struggling a bit with all the sickness and all our aged people but with His help we will survive.

Brother Paul and Sister Evelyn McKenzie who attend our church were visiting in Kentucky and he fell and broke his hip and had to have a hip replacement. They are laid up down there for a few weeks. Please pray for a speedy recovery. Pray for our own family as we have had a few rough weeks too.

Our church family celebrated with lunch at Cracker Barrel for Christmas this year.

Until next time, keep us in your prayers.

John Wallace, Pastor
Barb McKenzie, Reporter

Ohio Men's Retreat

**January
18-20, 2018**

**Heartland Retreat Center
Marengo, Ohio**

**Cost \$120 to register before January 5th
\$140 to register after January 5th**

**Includes five meals, eight great
services and two night's
stay**



Curtis Booth



Eugene Crouch



Dan Whisner



Troy Sadowski



Jason Meade

For more information, visit www.OhioFWB.org

Ohio State Missions

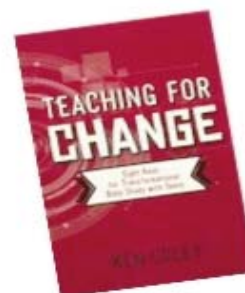
Ohio Missions Sunday

March 4, 2018



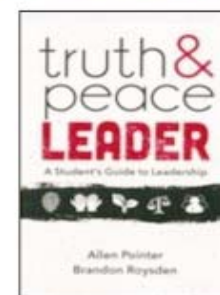
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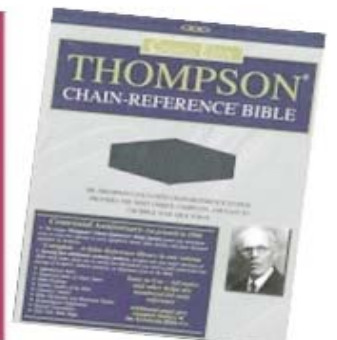
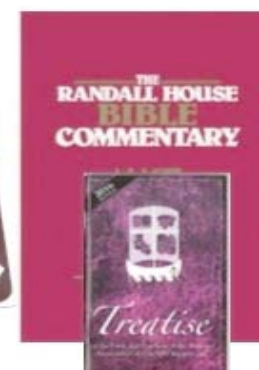
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