

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*

Holiday Issue

The Night That Changed Everything!

It is hard to imagine the hopelessness and despair of the world before that wonderful night in Bethlehem over 2,000 years ago. Could you imagine a world where there was no offer of forgiveness? No light in the darkness? No gospel message to save? No fellowship with God?

This is the kind of world that people lived in before that night in Bethlehem when the Jesus, the Son of God made His appearance to mankind. Thanks be to God for this night that changed everything!

When Jesus was born, God dispatched the angels to some lowly shepherds to give them the good news. *“And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”* Luke 2:8-11

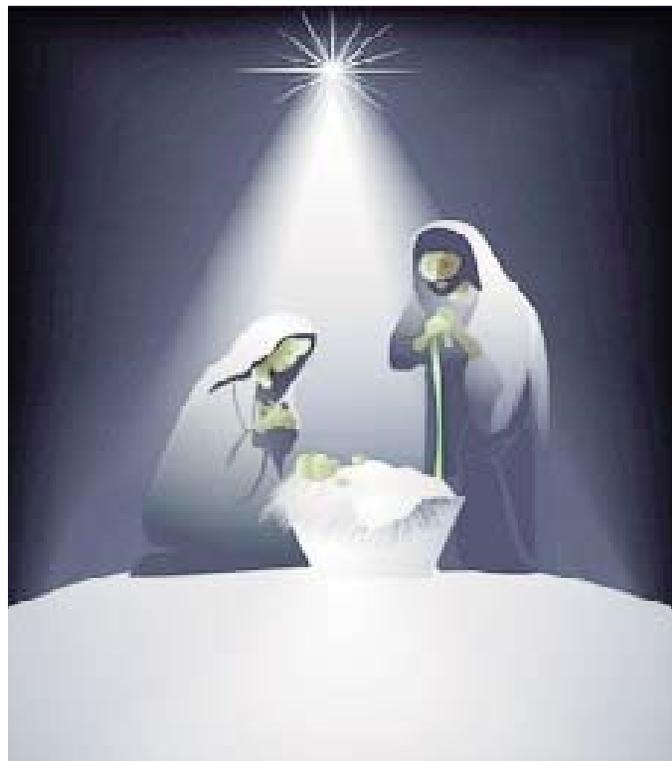
There were many great changes that took place in the earth that night because of the coming of Christ.

He Brought Light To Those in Darkness

This world was a pretty dark place that night. The Romans ruled over much of the world. They demanded total allegiance to their emperor. They were very cruel in how they meted out justice. They expected total obedience from their subjects world wide.

Even in Israel, the darkness was felt. After all, it had been 400 years since they had heard from God. The prophet's voices had been stilled for centuries. The religious leaders of the day fell into two camps. On one side you had the Pharisees whose exacting practices and laws that no one could possibly keep, discouraged the people. On the other side you had the Sadducees who didn't believe in the power of God. They didn't believe in angels or the resurrection.

Spiritually Satan ruled the world. He made it so dark that the people were blinded to the glory of God. They also could not see their sins or a remedy for their sins. Death also reigned. No matter what a person could accomplish in life, it would all end at the grave. And no one really knew what happened after that. They could not see the eternal.



But on this night a great light pierced through the darkness! The glory of the Lord lit up the night with the great news that Jesus was born. He would be the “light of the world” that would allow mankind the ability to see their sin and its remedy. How many people since that night have made their way to God by following the light that Jesus brought into the world. We no longer must live in darkness and despair, but because of what happened this night we can see the great light of joy and hope!

This is the kind of world that people lived in before that night in Bethlehem when the Jesus, the Son of God made His appearance to mankind. Thanks be to God for this night that changed everything!

He Provided Bread To the Hungry

The people of that day were starved spiritually. They had a need in their hearts that this world could not possibly fill. No doubt, they had attempted many ways to fill that need with numerous types of worldly “breads”, but alas, none of these could satisfy. People sought money, power, prestige, pleasure and a host of all kinds of “breads” this world offered up to man in order to satisfy the needs of their heart, but still ended up with that gnawing hunger in their soul.

On this night God provided true bread to mankind that would satisfy his hunger. That Babe in the manger was truly the “bread of life” that would fill and sustain all who would partake of it. Jesus would later say, *“I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger;”* (John 6:35).

As physical bread sustains and nourishes physical life, Jesus' spiritual bread sustains and nourishes spiritual life. Once you eat this bread, you will never hunger for salvation again and will enjoy eternal life!

He Offered Forgiveness To the Condemned

Before this night, the sinful people of this world stood condemned before a holy and righteous God. *“All had sinned and come short of the glory of God.”* (Romans 6:23) And the “wages” of those sins was death. Everyone on earth at that time was simply awaiting judgment.

However, because of what happened this night in Bethlehem, condemnation was replaced by forgiveness. When man looked inside that small stable and gazed on the Babe in a manger, he knew that he could be forgiven. Jesus was known for forgiving sinners. It could be a corrupt tax collector like Zacchaeus, a sinful Samaritan woman or a thief on the cross, Jesus would extend to them His great gift of forgiveness.

“There is therefore no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus...” (Romans 8:1) I heard once about a epitaph on a headstone that had only one word on it. No name or date of birth or death, only the word “Forgiven”. When

you think of it, what greater thing can be said about a person than they have been forgiven? Thank the Lord for His great forgiveness! He has said to all those who receive Him, the same message He told the woman taken in adultery, *“Neither do I condemn thee, go and sin no more.”* (John 8:11)

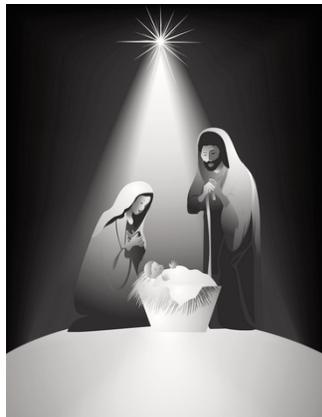
Continued on Page 2

Together We Can

Continued from Page 1-*The Night That Changed Everything*

He Gave Fellowship to the Alienated

Before this night, the people of the world were alienated from God. The Gentile world was filled with blind and ignorant idol worship and their lives were filled with gross immorality. The Jews had more knowledge of the true God, but had fallen into a love of their traditions (Pharisees) and their wealth and knowledge (Sadducees).



In both Gentiles and Jews there was an alienation from God. No doubt, He seemed far away. Neither group seemed to understand the great grace and love that God the Father had for them.

That night in Bethlehem we can see that God did not want for man to be alienated from Him. Jesus would come and make this offer, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give your rest." This great invitation revealed the great truth that God truly desired fellowship with fallen man. God wanted them to come to Him and He would receive them and give their souls true rest. He wanted to not only save sinners, He wanted to be with them. That was what the religious leaders of the day could not understand, that Jesus was the friend of sinners! That is why the demon possessed, the prostitutes, thieves and publicans would flock to Him. He would not turn them away, but offered His fellowship instead. We can rest in the fact that if we come to Christ, we are no longer alienated from God, but we can enjoy His fellowship forever!

He Presented Clarity to the Confused

The world at that time was a very confused place. It was confused spiritually, morally and socially. There was confusion about who God was. There was confusion about what God expected of man. And there was confusion about how man should live his life in a way that would please God. It seemed like every society had its own god, its own morality and its own idea on how they should live.

Out of all this confusion, came clarity that night in Bethlehem. Christ had come and mankind could now know who God was. He could know what God's character was like. He could now know what morality God expected from man. He could also know how to have a successful life, marriage, family and society.

Jesus in His ministry taught all those things. And most importantly, He showed man how to be forgiven, saved from sin and become a child of God by receiving His sacrifice on the cross and believe in His bodily resurrection. Man didn't need to live in confusion any more.

He Offered Hope to Those in Despair

Before this night man had little hope and their lives were filled with despair. Most of the world didn't have much to hope for. They really didn't have much to look forward to. After all, it seemed like Satan was in control and no matter what they did, they would not be able to find salvation or peace.

But on this night, hopes began! When those shepherds heard the great news about what happened in that stable, they had to go see for themselves. When they arrived and saw the Baby Jesus, their lives were now filled with hope. They left that night rejoicing in the birth of their Savior! They shared the good news throughout the land.

Later, Simeon, Anna and the Wise Men from the east also received hope by gazing on His wonderful face. Think of the people since who have come out of despair and received the great hope in their hearts because of the coming of Jesus to save from sin. Praise God!

As you can see that this night truly changed everything for man. Because of what happened at Bethlehem, he had light instead of darkness, true bread instead of hunger, forgiveness rather than condemnation, fellowship rather than alienation, clarity instead of confusion and hope rather than despair. Could you imagine for a moment, if this night had never happened? I am glad that we don't have to, because Jesus did come to Bethlehem that night and it was a night that truly changed everything!



May you all rejoice in this great truth. Have a wonderful Christmas!

Edwin Hayes
Executive Secretary

Secretary's Schedule

| | |
|----------------|--|
| November 9 | South Central Conference at Puritan, Jamie Fortner, Pastor |
| November 10 | Newark AM Service, Gary Dheel, Pastor |
| November 17 | Cleveland SS & AM Service, Joseph Egnor, Pastor |
| November 24 | Woodstock AM Service |
| November 24-26 | Central Ohio Revival at Redeemer, Mike Baldwin, Pastor |
| December 1 | Puritan AM Service, Jamie Fortner, Pastor |
| December 8 | Liberty AM Service, Cecil Farmer, Pastor |
| December 9-10 | National Leadership Conference |
| December 11 | National Executive Committee Meeting |
| December 15 | South Columbus SS & AM Service, Tim Stevens, Pastor |
| December 29 | Lockbourne SS & AM Service, Leon Stevens, Pastor |
| January 5 | Columbus First AM Service, Justin Feight, Pastor |
| January 12 | Elm Street AM Service, Ronnie Conn, Pastor |

The Ohio State Association Office and Ambassador Bookstore will be

CLOSED

December 24-January 1st

We will
REOPEN

Thursday, January 2nd



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The **AMBASSADOR** is the official publication of the:

**OHIO STATE ASSOCIATION
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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.



2019 State Wide Ohio Women Active for Christ *Retreat*

The OWAC Fall retreat was held September 13-14 at the Berlin Grande Hotel in Berlin, Ohio.

Upon arrival we enjoyed an Amish homestyle meal at the Berlin Farmstead restaurant. We had 91 women in attendance, representing 16 Ohio churches and 1 church from TN. **Ana Batts** was our special speaker. Ana and her husband along with their six children minister to the people of Cross Timbers Free Will Baptist Church. We were blessed to have sixteen-year-old **Kendra Kent** as our special singer.

On Friday, we opened our time of fellowship with a couple of fun ice breakers. Our theme was *"God Speaks Still"*.

During our service Ana shared with us

verses from Psalms 46 ending with our theme verse of Psalms 46:10. Ana talked to us about building a castle and what that looked like through the ages. She explained that God is a fortress for us to keep out the bad but also keep in the good.

Following our service, we broke into small groups by topic. The OWAC executive board wanted to be sure each lady was ministered to according to what stage of life she is in. Friday ended with a time of fun and fellowship.

On Saturday, following breakfast we had our first morning service. Ana shared with us from her personal experiences as a mom and what the theme verse meant to her. We enjoyed more fellowship in our small groups where we exchanged

information with our groups to continue to be a support system to one another. Prior to our closing devotion we enjoyed more special singing by Kendra. Kendra and her family who attended the retreat with her this year were such a blessing. Kendra has shared from her heart how much ministry means to her. Kendra attends the First Assembly of God church in Zanesville, OH.

We had a closing devotion with Ana where she shared more of what God is doing in her life and what our theme meant to her. One thing we learned that was so special is that Psalms 46 is one of the passages Ana worked on this year in preparing the youth she coached for Bible memorization. What a blessing to know God was working on her heart with these verses all year long!

Our service project this year was providing airline, Walmart and Amazon gift cards for the Shine conferences which Ana is one of the speakers for.

We wrapped up our retreat with giving out our yearly trophies. Congratulations to the following churches: Lebanon (*most present to member ratio*), Scioto Dale (*most first-time attendees*), and Canaan (*most in attendance*). Retreat is such a refreshing time of fellowship and worship. Ladies, we hope you can make plans to join us next year.

Mark your calendars for October 9-10, 2020. We have a special treat next year WNAC Executive Director, **Elizabeth Hodges** will be joining us to speak on our theme *"Transformation!"*



Church News



REDEEMER (CENTRAL OHIO)

The Central Ohio Conference Revival, with Rev. **Edwin Hayes**, will be held November 24th, at 6:00p.m., Nov. 25-26th at 7:00p.m. Special singing nightly. What a wonderful way to round out our year! Please come and get encouraged and renewed as we head into the stressful holiday season.

The Men's Fellowship Breakfast will be held at the home of Pat Dillon, 2015 East Choctaw Drive, London, OH. The men had a wonderful time in September and are looking forward to gathering again. Please invite a family member or friend or come alone and join with the men.

We had a wonderful time at our Christmas party last year, with almost 80 attendees, and we want to invite you to join us once again at our Christmas Dinner on December 13th, at the Lodge at Lake Choctaw. We certainly would like to pack the place with friends. You just need to let Pastor Mike know how many family and friends you are bringing with you. The food is wonderful and **The Victory Trio** will be joining us. Buffet starts at 6:00 p.m. with the Victory Trio singing at 7:00pm. Cost is only \$10.00!

If you're ever in the area, please stop in and join us for service on Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m. and Sunday evenings at 6:00pm or on Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm.

Michael Baldwin, Pastor
Nena Dillon, Reporter

OAK HILL (JACKSON)

Greetings. God is good and His blessings are many. All we have to do is look around and see God's beauty everywhere as the trees turn to gold, orange and red.

A dear sister and member of our church went home to be with Lord. Sis. Nancy Hubbard passed away at Oakwood Nursing Home. She was the wife of Rev. **Howard Hubbard**. Her funeral was Oct. 30th with Bro. **Danny Boggs** preaching. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Our homecoming was Oct. 6th. Bro. **Brian Pettit** taught the adult class from Jonah. Special singing by **Corky Corn** and his group, **Singing Praises**. Bro. **Tim Simpson** preached a wonderful sermon from Psalm 136 entitled, "*His mercy endureth forever.*" In the afternoon, Bro. **Calvin Minnis** sang and Bro. **Mike Simpson** preached from Luke 8:4, "*What kind of soil are you?*" It was a wonderful day of praise and fellowship. We thank the ladies the wonderful meal.

Our songfest was Sept. 28th for Bro. **Calvin Minnis** and his group singing. Bro. Calvin preached from Psalm 14:1. Oct. 26th Bro. **Billy McFann** preached from Isaiah 50:2 entitled, "*There's still an answer.*" His children did a wonderful job singing. We thank our visiting preachers and singers. We love each one.

We presented our pastor, **Tim Simpson** and assistant pastor, **Danny Boggs** a special gift and card for pastor appreciation. We're thankful for men who will stand and preach the word of God.

The holidays will soon be upon us. We will celebrate Thanksgiving and the birth of our dear Savior. Let us start each day thanking God for all He does for us and let's remember the "Reason for the Season."

Until next time, may God bless you.

Allen Simpson, Pastor
Sandy Clark, Reporter

MCGUFFEY (NORTH & WESTERN)

Greetings from McGuffey FWBC. We are a very small church but that hasn't seemed to deter God from sending some big sermons through our pastor, **Don Webb**. We have been feasting on sermons about *The Seasons of our Christianity, The Reasons People are Leaving the Church, What a Friend We Have in Jesus, and How Can We Please God?*

We are looking forward to the **Chris Stewart Family** singing and preaching for us on Saturday night, Nov. 16th at 7:00pm. Everyone is welcome. We will also have Dr. **Freddy Dutton** on December 8th, and **Robert Legg** speaking for us on Sunday morning, December

Travis McKenzie, Ohio Home Missionary to Ashland, Ohio

A season of thanks

Once again, we've come to the time of year where we automatically begin looking back over the past several months and begin to reflect on all that has taken place in our lives, and more specifically, our ministries. When I think back over this year at Compassion, I can't help but be amazed at how God has blessed in so many areas.

First, I want to thank God for the three individuals who have trusted Christ through the ministry of Compassion Church, not to mention, the several others who have indicated they've rededicated their lives to Christ because of this ministry! I also want to thank God for the five individuals that we've been blessed to see baptized, along with the three others who have recently indicated that they would like to be baptized. I thank God for the literally thousands of individuals that Compassion Church has been privileged to share the love of **Jesus Christ** with throughout this past year through our many community outreach events. And, I thank God for the nearly two-hundred people who have walked through the doors of Compassion Church for the first time in 2019.

I want to take this opportunity to thank God for the blessing that we experienced in making it possible for us to purchase nearly eight acres of vacant land on a major highway just inside the city limits in Ashland. And, I wouldn't feel right if I didn't thank God for the people who donated equipment, material and especially time in getting the entrance to the property cleared, leveled and a driveway installed! We serve an amazing God. I want to thank God for the architect who is voluntarily working with our design team to design a floor plan that will meet our current needs and allow room for the future growth of Compassion Church.

I also want to thank God for the privilege to pastor the nearly eighty people who call Compassion Church their home. To see their heart for God's work is truly a blessing. I would also like to thank God for you, the church or individual who sees what God is doing at Compassion Church and feels compelled to pray for us, or to partner with us on a financial basis. We simply would not be here if it wasn't for your faithfulness.

Finally, I want to thank the Lord Jesus Christ for saving my soul, calling me into the ministry, giving me the opportunity to pursue His calling in my life full-time. I also want to thank the Lord Jesus Christ for giving me a family who not only supports the ministry of Compassion Church, but is deeply involved in this ministry on a weekly basis, and especially for putting us in Ashland, Ohio! I pray that you too can look back over 2019 and see how the Lord has blessed your life. After all, this is truly a season of thanks!

In Christ's service,
Travis McKenzie

Pastor Changes



Bethesda Chapel
Bethlehem
Blackfork
Brookdale
Cornerstone
Eifort
Fairview
Faith
Germany Hollow
Hamilton Glades
Island Road
Newark
New Hope
Trinity

Brooks Knechtly
Without Pastor
Without Pastor
Without Pastor
Bill Crank resigned
Without Pastor
Without Pastor
Lester McMahan retired
Without Pastor
Jim Dummitt resigned
Without Pastor
Gary Dheel
Dan Widdig
Paul Collins

15th. Again, everyone is welcome.

We hope that everyone has a wonderful holiday season! Don't eat too much turkey and never forget the blessed reason for the season!

Don Webb, Pastor
Sue Smith, Reporter



SOUTH CHARLESTON (LITTLE MIAMI)

Greetings from South Charleston. God has blessed our little church with some great services.

On September 8th we celebrated Pastor Appreciation Day. We surprised Rev. **Forest Dyer** with lunch and an early birthday cake. We appreciate all he has done for the church.

As we enter the Thanksgiving season. We want to give God all the praise for our little church and the great fellowship we have.

May God bless each of you throughout the remaining year.

Forest Dyer, Pastor
Brenda Young, Reporter

MARYSVILLE (CENTRAL OHIO)

"Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice: and let men say among the nations, the LORD reigneth." 1 Chronicles 16:31

We are glad to have John and Mary Thomas to become members of our church. Also, Mary Wibley was baptized. What a blessing!

Jerry and Marcy Andrews's son Jeff Andrews, passed away suddenly Sept.16th. He will greatly be missed by family and friends.

The youth and some adults enjoyed going to Leed's Farm Oct. 5th. It was a fun day for everyone.

God's Messengers will be with us Nov.10th in the 11am service.

Nov.17th at 10 am Rev **Freddy Dutton** will be preaching in our Veteran's Day Service. We will have special singing. Lunch will be served after the service.

We are having our candlelight service Dec. 8th at 6pm. Everyone enjoys this special service.

Dec. 11th at 7pm we will be going caroling to some of the elderly. Cookies and hot chocolate will be served afterwards.

Dec.15th at 11am **God's Messengers** will be bringing Christmas music.

Dec. 22nd at 6pm we are having a Christmas pageant "*The Not So Silent Night*". It is based on the people who witnessed the birth of **Jesus**.

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas to all.

Paul Bogenrife, Pastor
Helen Murray, Reporter

VICTORY (CAPITAL CITY)

Once again, fall and harvest time gives us the opportunity to thank God for all of His blessings. Psalm 100:4, "*Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise; be thankful unto him, and bless his name.*"

Our Homecoming Revival started on Oct.10th and ended with a great dinner on the 13th. Rev. **Paul Staton** preached three powerful messages and we were blessed with different singing groups each night.

On Homecoming Sunday, Rev. **Russell Street** preached the message, and the **Knipp Family** blessed us with singing. We also surprised our pastor during the dinner with a Pastor Appreciation moment. We thanked him for the great job he is doing for the Lord and the church!

We are looking forward to November and December services to celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Last month, two of our church members went home to be with the Lord, Oliver Tackett and Walter Kirk. Please remember their families in prayer. They will truly be missed.

The Capital City Conference will be held at the Rosedale FWB Church on November 16th.

We wish you all a happy Thanksgiving and a blessed Christmas!

Michael Gillen, Pastor
Jean Holmes, Reporter

Condolences

Thinking of you



International Missionary Howard "Howdy" Filkins entered His Savior's presence on August 31, 2019. The 86-year-old experienced complications following an angioplasty. Howard and Joan "Jody" (Barnett) married December 25, 1955. They had three sons, two of whom were teenagers, when they answered the call to missionary service.

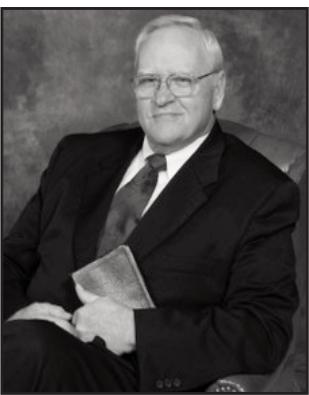


Howard and his wife Jody served in Côte d'Ivoire for 10 years, from 1972-1982. During that time they made an undeniable contribution to the physical and spiritual lives of dozens of missionary kids at the boarding school in Bouaké. Howard was also instrumental in some of the construction of buildings in Doropo.

"Pray for Jody, their sons Daniel, David, and Dale, and the other members of this wonderful family," General Director Clint Morgan urged. "Howdy was a faithful friend, missionary colleague, and the man who made life easier for some rookie missionaries in Africa with his many skills. His character shown like a bright light for he was humble, kind, thoughtful, encouraging, hardworking, and most of all, in love with God, His Word, and His work."

Services were held at 1:00 p.m. at CrossPointe Church in Norman, OK.

Rev. Larry Edward Sparks 67 of Columbus, went home to be with the Lord September 11th. He was a pastor and minister in the Free Will Baptist Association for over 30 years, pastoring



Bradley Gap, Columbus First and Williams Road FWB Churches.

Larry was born on August 29, 1952 in Louisa, KY to the late James E. and Leona Christian Sparks. He was preceded in death by two sons Paul Sparks of Columbus, Ohio and Eric Sparks of Louisa, KY; two brothers Garry Sparks and Joe Sparks of Louisa, KY; and a sister Bonnie Gee of Columbus, Ohio.

He is survived by his loving wife of 44 years Barbara Salmons Sparks and a special daughter Brittany Burns Hogston of Plain City, Ohio; two brothers Ralph Sparks of Lancaster, Ohio and Cobie (Debbie) Sparks of Wellston, Ohio; and a host of nieces and nephews.

A time of reflection was conducted September 13th at Williams Road FWB by Pastor James Blake and Travis Hogston. Funeral services were held September 15th at the Bradley Gap Free Will Baptist Church in Louisa, KY with Rev. Bobby Workman and Rev. Jerry Hughes officiating.

"I really wish I could help..."

While the best funding comes from small, regular gifts over time, many people dream of making a substantial gift to ministry. **Cornerstone Estate Planning** and **Free Will Baptist Foundation** make this possible by setting up an estate plan that leaves a gift to a Free Will Baptist ministry. Avoid the red tape of probate and fulfill your dream.

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Nancy L. (Hess)

Hubbard, age 84, of Oak Hill, passed away Sunday, October 27, 2019 at Oakwood Community in Jackson. She was born May 8, 1935 in Raven, VA. to the late Carl and Thelma (Thacker) Hess.



She is survived by her children, children, Jeff (Rhonda) Hubbard, Susan (Tim) Wilson and Mary Jane Parsons; former daughter-in-law, Ellen; 13 grandchildren; 22 great grandchildren and several cousins, relatives and friends.

In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her husband of 68 years, Rev. Howard Hubbard; her son, Danny G. Hubbard and numerous step brothers and sisters.

Nancy was a faithful and dedicated member of the Oak Hill FWB Church. She volunteered at the nursing home as well as doing pet therapy for the patients for several years. She was a loving wife and mother. She will be dearly missed by everyone who knew her.

Her funeral was held October 30th in Oak Hill with Rev. Danny Boggs officiating.

Mary (Brown)

Bocook Age 91, of Wheelersburg, passed away October 21st at her home. Mary was born in Lyra on September 11, 1928 to George and Carrie (Andre) Brown. She was retired from General Motors. She was an avid reader and attended Antioch Free Will Baptist Church. Mary was very active in her church and enjoyed the women's club.



Mary is survived by a daughter, Jeanne Chamberlin (Pete) of Wheelersburg; two grandchildren, Darcy Gafeira of Wheelersburg and Seth Chamberlin (Paige) of Paintsville, KY; seven great-grandchildren, Dominick, Deidre,

Conner, Stephanie, Bethany, Megan, and Danielle. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband Mickey; a son, Stephen; a brother, Donald C. Brown Sr.; four sisters, Norma Jean Brown in infancy, Jane Felty, Wilma Thompson, and Shirley Ebmeire.

Funeral services were held October 26th with Duane Knittel officiating.



Larry Douglas

Blackburn, age 69, departed this life to be with the Lord October 14th at his residence in Prestonsburg, KY due to a tragic accident. Larry was born on July 5, 1950 in Allen, Ky to the late Russel Blackburn and Mary Jane Daniels Blackburn.

Larry is survived by his loving wife and soul mate, Lydia Margaret Stout Blackburn of Prestonsburg, Ky. Along with his wife, Larry is survived by his step children: Michelle Caudill, John Sadler (Shannon), Jennifer Spradlin (Rob); Grandchildren: Jacob, Trinity and Adam Jarrell, Luke Bloomfield, Abigail, Kayleigh, Carter and Cassidy Arms. He is also survived by his sisters, Terry Lynn Dutton (Freddy) of Columbus, OH and Ramona Aiken (Paul) of Prestonsburg, KY and his brother James Wendell Blackburn (Jean) of Napoleon, OH. Also surviving is a nephew Christopher Dutton, nieces: MaShawna Jacobs, Melanie Aiken, Elizabeth Blackburn, Amanda Martinez and Natasha Damron.

Larry was retired from CSX Railroad where he worked for 34 years. Before his career with CSX, was head butcher at the old Little Bear Supermarket in Allen, Ky. He was a devoted, faithful and founding member of the Tabernacle Church in Prestonsburg, Ky and served on the Board of Directors. He actively served through many outreaches including: Sunday School Superintendent, Children's Sunday School teacher, manager of the Christian Appalachian Project (CAP) outreach program, and various other church and community related activities.

Larry is truly irreplaceable and will be sadly missed by all.

The family will plan a private "Celebration of Life".

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.

Bro Joe Parker and Sister Mona Parker hosted our church picnic at their house. We had a great turnout and the food was great as always. They have hosted us the past few years and they have a beautiful place.

On Sept 21st we went on the B and B Riverboat cruise. We had a great time. We had a good meal and great fellowship.

On October 6th we had our Pastor Appreciation dinner. We love are pastor and his wife. They do so much for the church. We had a wonderful surprise when Bob and Marilyn Lovett visited. They were in town from Florida.

Bro Hayes paid us a visit in October and preached a great sermon. It is always a pleasure to have him at our church.

Our harvest party was this month and the children and the adults had a great time.

Bro. Bobby and Sister Susan treated our church members to dinner at Two Rivers Restaurant in Butler State Park. They do this every year and it is a great time of fellowship.

Bobby Courtney, Pastor
Nancy Reiber, Reporter

SOUTH COLUMBUS (TRINITY)

Greetings from South Columbus FWB.

It's an exciting time this fall at South Columbus. We enjoyed a Fall Festival with a bonfire, pumpkin painting, carmel apples, smores, plenty of good food and fellowship.

The Trinity Conference was held November 2. We had pastor appreciation November 3.

Garret Fitch will be preaching for us November 10th at 11AM.

This year we are starting something new. We are going to draw names for a prayer partner and pray for that person for the month of November. We will reveal our prayer partner at our Christmas dinner.

We've taken in four new members. Welcome to Estelle Akers, Kenny and Robin Blackburn, and James Luther. Our church is growing and the spirit is moving.

Pray for Doris Borders as she recovers from knee replacement surgery.

Services are 10AM Sunday School and 11AM worship service.

Tim Stevens, Pastor
Kathy Messer, Reporter



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
- 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
www.coveredbyloveonline.com
- Cross Pointe Trio, Lancaster, Call Bill Pitts (740) 438-7750 wpitts@columbus.rr.com
www.crosspointetrio.com
- David Giddens, Marysville, (937) 642-2121 jgiddens@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 ladybam@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) 395-7728 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
- New Covenant Trio, Columbus, Call Gary Preston (614) 774-3109 or (614) 774-3039
gppreston@columbus.rr.com
- Ounce of Hope, Delaware, (Southern Gospel) (740) 363-4576
- Paul James Sound, Columbus, (614) 668-8916 paul@pauljamesound.com
www.pauljamesound.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
- 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 Family, (614) 496-1618, violetmaynard@yahoo.com
www.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 and I will add you the list in the next issue of the *Ambassador*.



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HERITAGE (CAPITAL CITY)

Fall has arrived and we have been busy! We held our annual Trunk-or-Treat/Soup & Sandwich Fellowship on October 27th. This is a fun time for all ages and a safe way for kids to get some candy! We enjoyed seeing so many from the community!

We will honor our veterans November 10th. Retired FWB Chaplain, **Kerry Steedley** will be preaching. Following the service we will serve our veterans and the widows of veterans and their families a special meal to thank them for their service.

November 16th will be our 3rd annual Craft & Vendor Show at Heritage. We have over 60 crafters and vendors that will be there. Plan to stop by anytime between 9:00am-3:00pm!

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

We trust each of you will have a wonderful Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday. Our church looks forward to the community Thanksgiving Service on November 24 (6pm) at Heritage. It's so wonderful to see the area churches come and worship together. Our schedule at Heritage is always filled with fun and family during this wonderful time of the year.

We praise the Lord our pastor is able to walk again. He is off the scooter! Thank you for your prayers!

Tim W. Stout, Pastor
Stephanie Wolfe, Reporter

Belles Chapel FWB Celebrates 79th Homecoming

Ohio Promotional Director **Edwin Hayes** preached Belles Chapel's annual homecoming September 29th in Louisa, Kentucky. The church also celebrated their 102nd anniversary.

The Singing Hayes Family from the church provided the special singing.

Brother **Jeff Hayes**, son of Pastor **Willie Gene Hayes** attended the meeting which was the first time that he was able to attend after several months in the hospital with a severe illness. He gave a stirring testimony of God's grace and a thanks for all the prayers offered for him.

A delicious dinner was provided after the service.

Willie Gene Hayes, Pastor

GRACE

Greetings from all of us here at Grace FWB. We hope all are doing well. We here are doing good thanks to the Lord.

We're so thankful our revival went great. The preachers did a wonderful job preaching, the singers were great. We were so blessed the Holy Spirit was truly with us. We were so blessed with all those that came out to support us. We thank the Lord Sis. Kim was able to leave the rehab facility each night to come be with us where her heart is. She's been blessed and is healing good from her surgery and was able to come home.

We ask for continued prayers for Bro. Dewayne's mom, she's not doing well. Her name is Lou. Also remember Bro. Bill, he hasn't been felling well. We have much to pray about. We all have sickness in our families and lost as well. We will continue to pray for your churches as well.

We pray everyone has a very happy and blessed up coming holiday season. Have a blessed Thanksgiving with your loved ones, don't forget to give our Lord thanks for all your blessings, not just on Thanksgiving, but everyday. During the Christmas season lets not forget what Christmas is really about, and let's spread the word to others the true meaning of that day which is the blessed birth of our Lord and Savior **Jesus Christ**.

We invite all to come worship with us sometime. Our Sunday school is 10:00 am and worship service is 11:15am.

Blessing to all.

Elaine Booth, Reporter

WELLINGTON (CUYAHOGA-LORAIN)

Greetings in **Jesus** name.

We had four people saved in September, one baptized and three joined the church.

December 15th is our Christmas dinner. **Mark Chapman** will be singing for us. All are welcome.

God is moving and blessing and growing our church, pray that we'll see more souls saved.

We also ask for prayers for everyone who are having health, family and financial issues.

Satan would love to kill every Christian, close every church, break up marriages and destroy our children. We have to stand on the word of God, keep our marriages strong and stay together for the children's sakes. When the home is broken, society will be broken. Can we all see a decline in the importance of marriage in our world today?

God bless from Wellington FWB Church.

Willie Bias, Pastor
Marilyn Thompson, Reporter

COALTON (JACKSON)

I'm so glad to be a part of the family of God! We just hosted conference meeting October 26th and had a wonderful time of worshipping the Lord together. Bro. **Edwin Hayes** delivered an uplifting message. We heard wonderful songs of praise from those in our congregations.

We have honored our pastors to let them know we appreciate their labors. Bro. **Bob Fulton** delivered the message for that morning and encouraged us to follow Christ. He read scriptures from St. Luke 13:22-30. Bros. **Allen Simpson** and **Kelly Stapleton** preached for our homecoming services. We thank them for the Word of God they shared with us. The scheduled singers were unable to meet their commitment but God blessed us with singers in our own congregation. Again, we had a good time of worship and in fellowship with wonderful food.

We were blessed to hear singing by **Ezekiel's Calling** in one of our Sunday morning services.



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As always, we are thankful for the faithful men who stand and deliver God's Word which include those spoken of earlier plus Bros. **Tim Simpson, Robert Fulton** and **Rich Bishop**. God's blessings to you as we all continue His work.

Tim Simpson, Pastor
Sandra DeHart, Reporter

NEWARK (FRANKLIN)

Greetings from the Newark Church. Since our last report, we have had two salvations and have added 12 members total to our church this year.

After 21 months of prayer and searching, we welcomed our new Senior Pastor Rev. **Gary Dheel** and his wife **Cheryl**. They have already been a huge blessing to our church. With Rev. Gary coming in as pastor, the church voted to have Rev. **Johnny Ray Davis** as assistant pastor because of his excellent leadership as our interim pastor for the past year and a half.

On September 22nd, we hosted our homecoming service with Bro. **Pete Caraway** as our special singer and Rev. **Earl White** preaching for us. Both men are from Nolan FWB Church in Nolan, WV.

On October 13th for Pastor Appreciation Day, we recognized the ministers in our church and their wives for their dedication to the church and the Lord. We also held a welcome dinner for Rev. Gary and Cheryl the following week.

As always, please continue to pray for our church. We know God has big plans ahead.

Gary R. Dheel, Pastor
Dreama Hughes, Reporter

CANAAN (CAPITAL CITY)

The past few months have allowed us tremendous opportunities for outreach. Our Canaan Kids program moved to Sunday nights. We are thrilled that this vibrant ministry has provided an opening for kids in the community to learn about Jesus. The nursing home ministry has moved full steam ahead under caring hearts of two new leaders. Trunk or Treat allowed the community to have a safe place to bring their children. The Samaritan's Purse "Operation Christmas Child" campaign kicked off.

In other news, Pastor Mike began a Sunday morning series in the book of Philippians. He is also currently finishing up a Wednesday night series on Revelation. During the month of September we welcomed four new members. In October a number of our ladies enjoyed attend-

ing the annual women's retreat in Amish country and the church honored our pastoral families.

Mike Gladson, Pastor
Lisa Justice, Reporter

FIRST SPRINGFIELD (FRANKLIN)

Hello everyone.

Greetings from Springfield. We have had a very busy couple of months! The ladies of our church have been busy from our two successful craft nights hosted by Melissa Pegram, to the Sunshine Ladies putting the basket of goodies together for the elderly and shut-ins of our church. Not only are the ladies helping our church and community, they are forming a wonderful Christian bond!

On October 6th, we had **Dumplin Valley Trio** visit and minister to us with their wonderful music praising the Lord! This was also the day of our last picnic for the summer so we got to enjoy fellowship with them even longer.

October also brought us our six-night revival services. Pastor Adam felt in his heart that we needed revival in our church. We had six nights a beautiful music and powerful preaching which the Holy Spirit was felt in every service! The wonderful messages were brought to us by Revs **Garrett Fitch, Kyle Chadwick, Michael Gillen, Clay Baldwin Russell Street, and Dwight Stump**.

We ended October with our adult and youth night, a scavenger hunt and trunk or treat that followed. This annual event always excites the kids!

May God bless each and everyone.

Adam McCarty, Pastor
Linda O'Neal, Reporter

DOGWOOD RIDGE (PINE CREEK)

Greetings from Dogwood Ridge FWB Church. Hope everyone is doing well.

On September 29th, we held our homecoming. Our singers for the day were the **Shaefers** and our message was brought to us by Bro. **Joe Nelson**. **Tim Jones** taught the Sunday School. It was a very good day enjoyed by all.

Sept. 22nd, we were blessed to have a visitor from the Gideons who gave a great message about what the Gideons do. They do many great things and we enjoyed having him very much.

On November 27th we have our Thanksgiving candle service at 7pm. We invite everyone who would like to attend.

On December 1st, at 4:30pm is our annual Christmas dinner. Everyone is invited to attend.

Please keep us in your prayers, as we pray for you.

Jeremy Moore, Pastor
Juanita Leesburg, Reporter

PURITAN (SOUTH-CENTRAL)

Greetings brothers and sisters in Christ.

We hope the fall season has been a wonderful time for you! Our church has been busy these last few months. Our church homecoming was celebrated September 8th with Bro. **Sid Moore** preaching and food and fellowship afterward.

In September, we also took a group to the Ark Encounter and it was a wonderful experience. If you have not been there, it is worth the trip.

We have had a busy October with starting our youth program back. We have had a tremendous turnout with kids each week. The youth took a trip to Walker Farms to pick out their own pumpkins and we used those pumpkins to teach the kids that the Lord takes us as individuals and cleans out the old, nasty insides and shows us how we can be clean and let His light shine in our lives. Afterwards, the kids had a great time decorating their pumpkins. We had our fall festival with special singing by **Randy Shafer**, a bounce house for the kids, food and a pie contest and auction. October was finished with Trunk or Treat for our community and a great time was had by all in attendance!

With the seasons changing, it is a good time to reflect on how good the Lord has been to us and he continues to give us blessings. Please remember our sick and shut-ins in prayers. We have several fighting cancer and pray for their strength and recovery. Always remember, "God is good all the time, and all the time, God is good!"

Blessings to all.

Jamie Fortner, Pastor
Rhonda Fortner, Reporter

GALION-UNITY (CUYAHOGA-LORAIN)

It's been a busy few months here in Galion. We had 11 youth attend youth camp. Annual Youth Week had six in attendance and five youth attended conference. We try to keep them busy and active in the church.

We had our annual soup bean and cornbread dinner at Pat and Mike Algire's home. Good eating!

We have had four baptisms in the last three months. The Lord has blessed our church with new members in the family of God.

Peace and prayers.

Dave Bates, Pastor
Dottie Pugh, Reporter

NEW HOPE (CORNERSTONE)

Blessings from New Hope. Our hearts are rejoicing! The Lord has sent us a new shepherd. Our new pastor, Rev. **Daniel Widdig** and his wife, **Clara**, started the first Sunday of September and they have been such a blessing to all of us. They also planned a special appreciation Sunday for **Wendell Combs** for his 20+ years as pastor at New Hope. It was a wonderful Sunday service with great food and fellowship to follow...a day that will never be forgotten.

We praise God that we have taken in three new members this past month.

Also, we are looking forward to and making plans for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Our church Christmas dinner will be December 14th.

Wishing all of you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Dan Widdig, Pastor
Linda Combs, Reporter



2019 Leadership Conference “Turns the Page”

The 2019 Free Will Baptist Leadership Conference returns to Nashville Airport Marriott December 9-10. Pastors and church leaders from across the country will gather to explore the theme, “*Turning the Page*,” according to **Ryan Lewis**, conference organizer. Keynote sessions will feature recently retired Executive Secretary **Keith Burden** and his successor, Dr. **Eddie Moody**. The two leaders will assess the denomination’s past successes, present challenges, and future potential.

Tuesday morning training seminars will feature a third keynote speaker. Dr. **Gordon Penfold** will present *The State of the Church in America, How to “Make” Change, and Vision Basics*. Penfold has served four churches and two interim pastorates over 37 years of pastoring and recently stepped down as lead pastor of First Baptist Church, a multi-ethnic congregation in Holyoke, Colorado.

In 2006, Dr. Penfold became director of Fresh Start Ministries, focused on bringing health and vitality to plateau, declining, and conflicted congregations. Recently, Dr. Penfold and Gary McIntosh developed Turnaround Pastor, an organization to equip struggling pastors with tools to transform stagnant churches.

The two-day conference provides more than training. Attendees will enjoy banquet-styled meals, music provided by Welch College, and free time Tuesday afternoon for sightseeing in Nashville. A number of national boards and committees also will meet in conjunction with the conference.

“As our denominational enters a transitional phase,” notes conference director **Ryan Lewis**, “we need to be encouraged to remain unified as we work to equip strong pastors and churches that will push us forward.”

OPEN DOOR (CORNERSTONE)

Be honest and ask yourself what kind of Christian am I? According to Scripture, there are four types.

The first type is a self-centered Christian finding the things of the world more important. Christ’s parable in Luke 12:13-21, describes such a Christian who wants to look out for himself on earth. Christ tells us in Matthew 7:19-21 not to lay up treasures upon earth, but in heaven.

The second type is the Christian who is more concerned with the accolades of others than pleasing God. Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11) were such. They were willing to submit some of their wealth to get the praise of men, but not everything to get the praise of God.

The third type is the “baby” Christian. The Christian who is still carnal. I Corinthians 3:1-3 describes such a believer. It results in envying, strife and divisions among Christians who have not grown in the things of the Word.

The fourth type is the Christian who is “sold out” to Christ. They are willing to totally give their lives in submission to God’s will. Mark 12:41-44 tells of the poor widow who cast in her two mites, all the wealth that she had, into the treasury of the Lord. In Acts 7:51-60, Stephen gave his life to preach Christ. This Christian is like Paul, who said in Philippians 1:21, “*For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.*”

What kind of Christian am I? Into which category do we find ourselves? It is a sobering

thought to pray about, with eternal consequences.

Willie A Booth, Pastor
Liz Baker, Reporter

FAITH (CUYAHOGA-LORAIN)

Greetings from Faith.

“*Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.*” Psalm 133:1

The Lord is still blessing us with some very good services.

We do have some with health issues. Remember them in your prayers.

On October 12th, we were blessed to host the conference. Bro. **Bob Prichard** preached the message. We enjoyed good singing with Bro. **Alan Stewart** and Sis. **Carol Powers** and **Jim Kirby**. It was good fellowship with the other churches. As always, we enjoyed good food which Sis. Christine Rhodes and her family do such a wonderful job decorating and preparing.

Bro. **Bill Alford** preached on October 20th.

Our pastor, Rev. **Lester McMahan** retired from Faith Church (Age does take a toll!) He is a good man and a good leader.

Visit us on the web
www.OhioFWB.org
or our Facebook Page

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, Strongsville, Oh | (440) 572-1614 |
| Lee Aldridge, Londonderry, Oh | (740) 887-4065 |
| Anthony “Tony” W. Blackburn, Mechanicsburg, Oh | (614) 623-0031 |
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| Larry Brown, London, Oh | (740) 852-0586 |
| Chad Booth, Ashland, Oh | (330) 715-8403 |
| Ron Brown, Hillsboro, Oh | (937) 402-4452 |
| Roger Childers, W Liberty, Oh | (937) 869-4890 |
| Steven Conn, Hayesville, Oh | (419) 651-9639 |
| Andrew Cordell, Marysville, Oh | (937) 215-4037 |
| Roger Crusie, Greenfield, Oh | (937) 981-3529 |
| Mike Daniel, Englewood, Oh | (937) 836-0540 |
| Martin Denes, Chillicothe, Oh | (740) 701-2124 |
| Luther Dingess, Fort Gay, WV | (304) 648-5901 |
| Freddy Dutton, Columbus, Oh | (614) 276-0200 |
| Michael Ellis, Columbus, Oh | (614) 917-7309 |
| James England, Columbus Oh | (614) 846-6654 |
| Packy Gibson, Hillsboro, Oh | (937) 393-2730 |
| Randy Hall, Hillsboro, Oh | (937) 365-1657 |
| Edwin Hayes, Reynoldsburg, Oh | (614) 751-1190 |
| Carl Jenkins, Cleveland, Oh | (216) 351-2475 |
| James Johnson, Rittman, Oh | (330) 331-6088 |
| Jason Jones, Marysville, Oh | (937) 241-1622 |
| William Jones, Marysville, Oh | (937) 594-1331 |
| Paul Keener, Westerville, Oh | (614) 891-4382 |
| Robert Legg, Dayton, Oh (<i>FWB Family Ministries-Rep</i>) | (937) 648-9600 |
| Alton Loveless, Columbus, Oh | (573) 330-7728 |
| Rodger Marsh, Leesburg, Oh | (937) 661-1169 |
| Wayne Mays, Hilliard, Oh | (614) 607-0634 |
| Tom Murphy, Commercial Pt, Oh | (614) 218-5435 |
| Robert Prichard, Cleveland, Oh | (216) 347-1559 |
| Freddie Ray, Omstead Falls, Oh | (216) 355-2137 |
| Tom Spradlin, Portsmouth, Oh (<i>FWB Family Ministries-Rep</i>) | (740) 776-6677 |
| Lowell Spencer, Ontario, Oh | (419) 545-2449 |
| Russell Street, London, Oh | (614) 440-0045 |
| Alex Stevens, Greenup, KY | (606) 473-5417 |
| Talo Teo, Zanesville, Oh | (740) 487-5735 |
| Bill Turner, Carlisle, Oh | (513) 746-5866 |
| Tim Updike, Wellston, Oh | (740) 384-3277 |
| Josh Young, South Solon, Oh | (937) 829-1723 |

Enjoy God’s blessings and beauty.

Lester McMahan, Pastor
Geraldine McMahan, Reporter

REYNOLDSBURG (FRANKLIN)

Thanksgiving and Christmas Greetings from RFWB. We are collecting weekly various items for the Operation Christmas Child boxes. What if we prayed that God would touch each child through each item we purchased? Imagine the lives God will change.

The youth and children of the church have multiple fun activities and outreach programs

planned including another Christmas play this December. I encourage us now to pray that unsaved families and friends who attend this play will hear about God, the birth of Jesus Christ and the saving power of knowing Him.

The women of our church enjoyed a powerful Women’s retreat in September. A time to fellowship and learn about our Father without the usual daily distractions. God has blessed us with many fine women of all ages and experiences in our church.

Pastor Jerry continues to challenge our church family with Biblical teaching and preaching. Our spirit-filled music team prepares us for genuine worship each week. We are again doing a Kelly Minter Bible Study on Tuesdays this fall. God wants us to grow in the knowledge of His word.

Jerry Sargent, Pastor
Kim Wiley, Reporter



PROJECT FLAGSHIP

Daryl Grimes Family Missionaries to Erie, PA



Let me introduce you to Louis. Louis made a profession of faith in Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior a few months ago. As we were sitting at our church picnic we broke up into prayer groups and we asked each person in our group to share a praise item and a prayer request. Louis said, "I just want to thank God that I'm not the man I used to be!" What a blessing it was to hear him testify of God's grace and goodness. We hope we will soon be able to see Louis follow the Lord in believer's baptism and bring his entire life under the Lordship of Christ. **Louis is able to attend Flagship Church and hear the truth and sense the love of Christ because of YOUR faithful support and prayers!** Please pray for Louis and pray for us as we seek to minister to him and his family. Please pray for us to continue to make a difference in the Flagship City!

**Building
Fund Update
\$146,472.07
is currently in our
Building Fund!
Thanks for your
faithfulness in giving
and praying about
our building situation!**



Richard Hensley 92-Year-Old Preaches South Columbus Homecoming

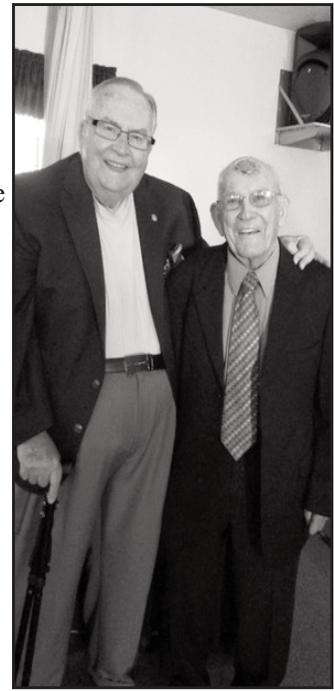
Pictured is Dr. **Alton Loveless** congratulating the Rev. **Richard Hensley** who preached at the South Columbus Free Will Baptist 51st homecoming on August 25th. The auditorium was packed with people who had returned for the homecoming and not only enjoyed the message but also an abundance of food that was served in their cafeteria.

His subject for the morning was entitled, "There Is None Greater!" Rev. Hensley pastored this Columbus church for 37 years before retiring.

He was ordained in the Tug River Association in 1958.

Tim Stevens has been the pastor for the last 12 years.

Dr. Alton Loveless, FWB Publications



CENTERBURG (CAPITAL CITY)

Greetings to all! The year end is quickly upon us. We are still waiting and watching for our Lord's return! Are you ready if He should return this very minute?

The Lord has truly blessed our church in the last year. We've seen many souls saved. However, there are many more that need to be reached. Let's not give up on the ones we've prayed so long for. There is still hope.

We've witnessed four souls saved since our last report. Pastor Mark has been preaching on the urgency of our walk with the Lord and how we must pray harder than we ever have before. The results are evident. The altars are being used for God's glory. Praise the Lord for his goodness and mercies!

Things are winding down for us here, as we approach year end. We had our Harvest Fest and Trunk or Treat with well over 200 in attendance. We will end the year by helping others with our annual food drive to those in need. Let us not forget the work the Lord has for us to do. Remember us in your prayers as we continue working and praying to see souls saved.

Wishing each of you a happy Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas! May God's blessings be upon each of you.

Until next time, if the Lord should tarry.

Mark Tuggle, Pastor
Sandy McDowell, Reporter

LIBERTY (CUYAHOGA-LORAIN)

We would like to take the time to thank the Lord for everything He has done for our church. We are seeing souls saved, and our church is growing. It's not about us, but it's all about Him. "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever." Hebrews 13:8 (KJV) Isn't it comforting to know that even when everything seems to be changing, we can rely on God constantly because he never changes.

We are still rejoicing about our annual fall revival. Bro. **Wayne Runyon** allowed the Lord to use him in a mighty way as he delivered the word each night. **The Sword Family** blessed our hearts with songs on Tuesday evening. We thank everyone who came out to support our revival. We would also like to welcome our new members Katelyn, Nicholas, and Noah Carillon, Ryan and Sarah Hunter, David and Darlene Partin, Jennifer Padrig, and Jesse Wolfe.

We have some exciting things happening this fall! Our church also has the privilege to go to two schools in the Barberton School District (Barberton West and East Elementary Schools) for an after-school Good News Bible Club program; we are seeing God work in this program.

Please pray that our church will be a light to this dark and dying world

Our church is also excited to announce All In Rallies Church Camp will be held June 8-12, 2020. The rally will be held in February (more information will come in the January issue). For more information, please contact Bro. Dustin Albright (330) 819-2499. 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.

May you all have a blessed Thanksgiving and a Merry CHRISTmas!

Until next time.

Cecil Farmer, Pastor
Chelsea Stillings, Reporter

WESTERVILLE (FRANKLIN)

Greetings from Westerville! Another summer is past and we're enjoying God's creation of fall colors.

September is promotion month for our children in SS classes. Those receiving certificates were, Kate Carney, Logan Sargent, Lincoln Cromer and Isabell Barnard.

The Master's Men had their annual car show Sept. 22nd. It was a great success and enjoyed by all. Refreshments were served. Our youth had hamburgers, hot dogs, coney dogs, chips, pop etc. The women's auxiliary had baked goods and candy for sale.

Our church hosted the Franklin Conference revival in Sept. Bro. **Edwin Hayes** preached some very good messages.

Our church celebrated 60 years October 18-20th. Friday evening Bro. **Mike Mounts** preached, Saturday Dr. **Neil Gilliland** preached and Sunday Bro. **Danny Baer** preached. All gave us very inspiring messages. In the Saturday night service, the choir consisted of a jr. choir of "yesteryears". They were led by Sis. **Barb Cordle** and Sis. **Donna Dean** played the piano. It was wonderful! Then on Sunday after church we had dinner on the grounds. What a glorious time of fun, food and fellowship.

The youth will be having a fall party here soon. Our young men are getting involved in our services. That's wonderful! Our youth of today is our church of tomorrow.

Sarah Sargent visited us in October with a history of the Provision Closet in Nashville. It was very good.

We are having good services, visitors are coming and were are hearing God's word.

Love and prayers to all!

Paul Etterling, Pastor
Grace McKinster, Reporter

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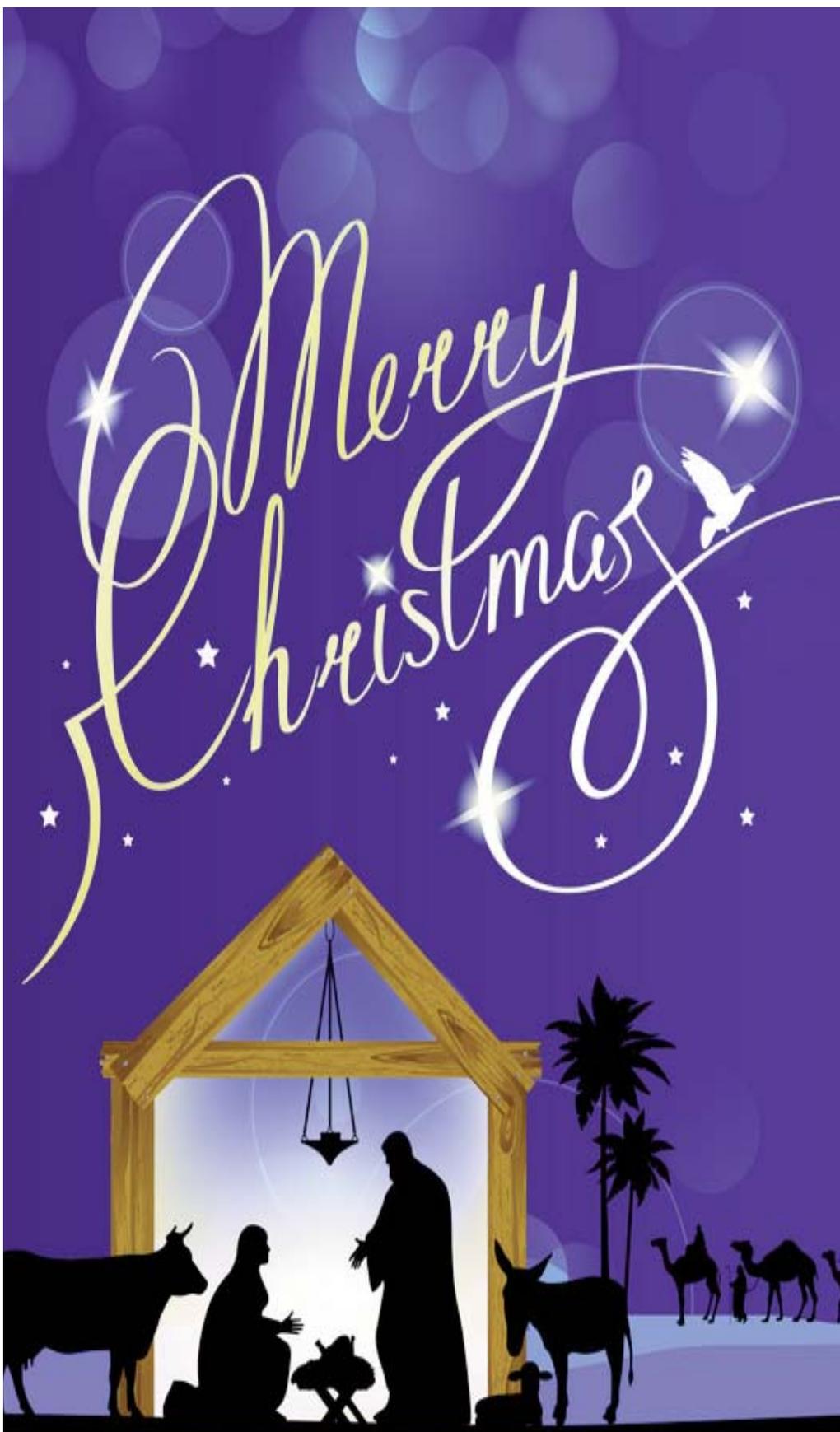
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God is so faithful to us as He continues to touch our lives with His love! We are so thankful and grateful to the Lord as we continue to experience His blessings.

We want to thank everyone that came to our Celebration Service for "50 Years in the Ministry" on October 18 at the Southwest FWB Church. This was a tremendous evening of celebration with 42 preachers attending and also a great host of friends and loved ones. The singing by **Paul James Sound** and the sermon by Dr. **Calvin Ray Evans** was truly anointed by the Lord and everyone rejoiced during this special celebration evening as we experienced the Power of God at the service. Terry and I are still overwhelmed by the outpouring of the love, and we will always remember this amazing evening of celebration. Thanks to everyone that helped make this a special and memorable evening for all attending.

The book, "*God's Amazing Love*" we wrote this summer and is now published and available for purchase. This book was available at the Celebration Evening on October 18 and many, many copies were sold. If you would like a copy, please let us know. We have not set an exact price for the book; however, will take donations to cover the printing and shipping costs. These books can also be purchased on Amazon for \$21.95. There are four sections to the book: *Biography, Devotions, Sermon Outlines, and Illustrations, Poems and Stories*. We have prayed over this book and asked God to make it a blessing to others as they read the pages.

Please continue to pray for us! From the depths of our hearts, we thank you and are so grateful for your love and many acts of kindness you show us!

UPCOMING TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER 10 Vans Valley Community Church Homecoming, Sunbury, Ohio
NOVEMBER 16 Capital City Conference, Rosedale FWB Church, Irwin, Ohio
NOVEMBER 17 Marysville FWB Church (Veterans Day Service) Marysville, Ohio

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

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Ohio Updates

Edwin Hoyer

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PINE CREEK (PINE CREEK)

Greetings from Pine Creek FWB Church. We are excited for our upcoming events. November 16th @ 7pm we are having a family and friend night with Brother **Corey Carroll** preaching and **Covered by Love** singing. Please come join us.

Our youth group is busy spreading the word. "We are on a Mission" is our theme. Our youth group has set a goal to reach 200 children with the word of God before the end of 2019. Their first step in reaching their goal is 100 treat bags with a Bible, bookmark with a chocolate treat.



We would like to thank the Gideons for the 100 Bibles that helped us start with our 2019 mission project. They will be preparing Christmas care packages and fruit baskets to share this Christmas season.

We ask for your prayers as we reach the lost for Christ one person at a time. Pine Creek is on the move for Christ.

Ronnie Massie, Pastor
Paula Friend, Reporter

BLOOM (PINE CREEK)

We are continuing to pray for revival! Hope to announce a date soon. Several hands are raised for prayer, and we appreciate the burdens for lost loved ones in our church families.

Summer and fall have brought us great preaching from **Trevor Carver, Mike Allen, Danny Baer, Robert Legg** and **Mike Skaggs** from the Gideons and John Snyder teaching on homecoming. Two were recently baptized; Jennifer Greathouse Evans and Cole Bennett. New members given the right hand of fellowship were, Ryan and Sandi Dutiel, Braden Martin and Stan Stonerock. All are a blessing to us.

Sis. Jennifer has been helping Tammy Adkins with the Sunday bulletins and we appreciate these ladies working great together.

Homecoming in September was a blessing as we celebrated 108 years for our church with preaching, praying, testimonies and fellowship dinner with singing in the afternoon.

Our Youth Pastor **Shawn Campbell** and Ryan have started an AWANA program on Sunday nights. The teens are assisting adult leaders in the K-6th graders and the kids are learning great Bible verses, with songs and lessons! We have a goal for 50 kids enrolled for this year.

Congratulations Eli and Kayla Besco Tackett and new daughter Gracie Jane! We had a blessed baby dedication for Maverick and Maddox, twin sons adopted by Denny and Gidget Klaiber Cade.

Loved ones part of our Bloom Church families through the years and have gone home to heaven recently. Jeannie Greathouse, Garland Adkins, Reba Aldridge, Tom Ramey, and also Bro. Roger Lavender had the funerals for his older brothers Earl and Larry Lavender and sister Donna Spergin. Love and prayers to all their dear families.

We hosted the Nov. 9, Pine Creek Conference. Bro. Kenny recently preached from Bro.

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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.

2020 Camps

(Dates 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

Edwin Hayes July message in the *Ambassador* "The Right View About God". It was an extra inspiration to review it word for word! Thankful for our pastors and preachers who have God given messages from His Word to help us all as we witness and win the lost!

Kenny Klaiber, Pastor
Diana Claxon Stonerock, Reporter

NORTHRIDGE

Greetings.

Pastor **Tim Hamilton** preached three revival meetings in October which ended in eight people praying to receive **Jesus**. Thank you Lord.

"Therefore, my beloved brethren be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." I Corinthians 15:58

"I (Pastor **Tim Hamilton**) have been motivated in my life by coaches, teachers and myself. I have been motivated to exercise and eat right for my health. In I Corinthians 15:54-57 we

find our ultimate victory. The older I get the more I see the vanity of this world. In the above scripture we see that the ultimate victory is a huge motivator for us. Be ye steadfast, firmly fixed and unchanging in the doctrine of Christ. If it once was sin, it is sin now. *Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever!*" Quoted from Oct. 27, 2019 Pastor's Heart of the church bulletin.

We will no longer be broadcasting on radio ministry on Sundays at 2:30 p.m. (Station WGNZ 1110 AM and 104.3 FM) as of January 1, 2020.

Join us in service on the web at www.christianworldmedia.com/livechannel/northridgefwbc

Please help us to pray in preparation for the following: In November on the 10th at 11am we will have our Patriotic Service and celebration of John McCloud's birthday (a WWII Veteran). On the 17th at 6pm a Faith Walk drama. On the 24th at 11am the **Common Bond Quartet** and on the 27th at 7pm our Thanksgiving Testimony

Service. For December on the 15th our Christmas Plays and Youth Service will be held. On the 24th at 6pm we will have our Christmas Eve service. We will have no service on Christmas Day and our Watchnight Service will be on the 31st at 10pm.

Tim Hamilton, Pastor
Teresa Poynter, Reporter

BEECH GROVE (FRANKLIN)

Greetings from Beech Grove FWB church.

We have had a whole family with children visiting our services and we hope they feel comfortable and welcome. Evangelist **Tim Case** was our speaker for one of their visits and they seemed to enjoy his message.

Our other visiting speakers have been Brothers **Ed Crone** and **Ron Adams**. Our pastor, **Joe Pinkerton** expressed much appreciation for all of the help he has had from other ministers while he has been ill.

The women's group are in the middle of our annual bake and yard sale. We are handicapped by the illness of Sister Wanda Bailey, and Sister Shirley Echart. But both of them are continuing to help through their illnesses.

Pray for Bro. Roy Echart as he undergoes heart testing for chest pain. He also has continued to fix our air conditioner, mow, and replace the broken sink faucet. Bro. Mike Adams also is helping to maintain our grounds.

This is what it takes: everyone working together, perhaps more slowly than usual, maybe not so energetic, but an hour here and there gets the most needed work done.

Thanksgiving dinner and Christmas dinner will be a potluck affair. Come join us for these events as they are announced in the services.

My hope for all of the churches is to be constant, enjoy the holidays, and God bless all of you.

Joe Pinkerton, Pastor
Gloria Kidder, Reporter



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Thought for the Month

“Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;” Ephesians 1:15-16

UNITED (CAPITAL CITY)

Blessings from United FWB Church in Massillon. We had a great time as **Mike Gillen** and **Paul James Sound** joined us for Pastor Appreciation Day complete with food and fellowship.

Bro. Ed Fisk regained the 1st place in our Chili Cook-off with Dennis Clay taking 2nd and Pastor **Randy Keffer** 3rd. We enjoyed a hay ride and a camp fire. The younger kids enjoyed piling up the leaves and jumping into them. The older boys tossed a football around joined by a couple of the men. *“That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.”* 1 John 1:3

November 24th is Old Fashioned Day. The men come in their bib overalls, the ladies wear long dresses and bonnets, and after service we enjoy our favorite old style foods.

The church members and friends will gather on December 14th for a Christmas party and the ladies group will have a party December 28th.

We'll have a special New Year's Eve service, including food and fellowship and the men are already looking forward to the Men's Retreat.

Be in prayer for our members and families with illnesses. Join us in prayer for a larger building. Prayer for you all.

Randy Keffer, Pastor
Linda Webb, Reporter

HILLSBORO (CORNERSTONE)

I can't believe that we made it through the summer and fall season. In July, was our homecoming and we really had a good time in the Lord. Old Fashion Day was at the end of October, and everyone seemed to have a good time as well. We had a good conference at Open Door FWB Church.

Thanksgiving is coming up. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 says *“In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”* Whether it is something small or big give thanks to God. That means even the storms of life we face, we need to thank God for them.

We are gearing up to making the shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child that will be sent all over the world. Also, our church is doing the bulbs. Each bulb on the Christmas tree has a child's name and age in it. Then you buy for that child. Last year, all the kids in the church had gifts under the tree. The Sunday before Christmas is “Birthday for Jesus!” All the Sunday school classes join together, and have breakfast. As everyone is eating then the Christmas story is shared to all of us.

Merry Christmas to everyone! See you all next year! Prayers and God bless you!

Richard Burns Pastor
Jamie White Reporter

FIRST DAYTON (LITTLE MIAMI)

Greetings from First Dayton FWB.

We have great news to report! God has passed by and we have had conversions and request for memberships. Bro. Eddie Cantrell and Sister Linda Cantrell joined our congregation. Praying

that the Lord will send more laborers into fields and we will reap the harvest of new souls to be saved.

We were honored with special services with Bro. **Edwin Hayes** and Bro. **Carl Poynter**, Men for Missions. Bro. Poynter has won many souls to Christ on Mission field, serving in Haiti, Japan and other places. He is a very dedication Christian. We were blessed by Sis. **Teresa Poynter** songs and inspired testimony

We were also blessed by Sis. Carolyn Carpenter who sang *Beulah Land*. She has a beautiful voice and was helping out For Sis. Angela Creech who was on vacation. Bro. Dan Robinette and Bro. Charlie Brewster also helped out. We enjoyed all the songs of Zion.

Pastor Long's message from Matthew 7:13-14 encouraged four of our young people to give their hearts to Christ. God has provided the opportunity for eternal life through what **Jesus** Christ did at Calvary.

Prayers to all for a thankful Thanksgiving, and remember the reason for our Christmas season. Everyone have a happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas.

Please continue to pray for all and especially our country.

You can hear Pastor Long's Sermons and special singing on Facebook at WWW:Facebook.com/First Dayton Free Will Church. Don't forget. Pastor Long hosts a weekly radio program called “Sunday Mornings with Jesus” on WGNZ 104.3 FM.1110 AM. 8:00 to 8:30 a/m/

Mark Long, Pastor
Marcella Keeton, Reporter

SHELBY (NORTHERN OHIO)

The Shelby church has great things to declare about the works of God! These past two months, we saw one person give their life to Christ, and we took in one new member! Also, God continued to bless us with the renovations on our church – after much deliberation and prayer, the church made the decision to sell the rental property we own. As it turned out, the amount we received for the property ended up paying for the new roof that was needed for the church. God has opened the windows of heaven for us during this entire remodel, that we might glorify His name!

We were so blessed to have the **Parson Family** with us for our Pastor Appreciation celebration in October. We are thankful for our pastor **Matt Pond** and his family. Please keep his wife **Laura** in your prayers, as she has been struggling with severe asthma issues. How comforting and wonderful to know that there will come a day with no sickness or disease!

Matt Pond, Pastor
Heather Brown, Reporter

MOUNT STERLING (TRINITY)

Hello from the Mt. Sterling FWB Church. We have had a busy month in October. We celebrated Pastor Appreciation and youth appreciation. The youth leaders Sister Gerri Sigmon and Sis. Carol Manning put together something special each week for our youth. They enjoyed a movie, pizza, games and bouncy houses.

For Pastor Appreciation the kids of the church each took a block of cloth and drew a Biblical picture and then Sis. Carma Armentrout and Bro. Bob Armentrout helped assemble it and Carma quilted it. The youth presented it to Pastor JD and his wife Johnna at church and the youth sang. You've been an inspiration. Our church is so blessed to have Pastor JD and Johnna.

Nov. 10th we will have a special service honoring all of our veterans and still active Military and First Responders. Thank you Kenneth Miller for putting this special service together.

Nov. 21-24th at 7pm **Garrett Fitch** will preach and sing for us during our revival. We will also have the **Detty Sisters** sing on the 22nd Friday night. We are praying for souls saved and a blessed time. Garrett will also preach for us Sunday morning. Please mark your calendars and come and worship with us.

Over the past months the ladies have been gathering different items with the congregations help so they can provide the homeless with needed items for everyday living and hygiene. With the cold weather coming, please keep the less fortunate in your prayers. We will also be adopting a family for Christmas again this year.

December 7th we will hold our annual business meeting to elect new officers for the upcoming year. Dec. 13th at 6pm we will be having our church Christmas party at the Mt Sterling Community Center. God bless, Merry Christmas and have a Happy New Year.

JD Bowman Pastor
Brandi Graham Reporter

CLEVELAND (CUYAHOGA-LORAIN)

“Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”
Ephesians 6:11

We are in a constant spiritual battle and we need to protect ourselves always with the whole armour of God.

Hello our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ and greetings from the Cleveland FWB Church.

We are excited to announce that God is still alive and working today as He was yesterday, and will be tomorrow. We had a pretty busy month of October and it's always a blessing to see the church grow.

On October 13th, Jessica Mortach became a member of the church. October 20th, Theodore Estep and Karen Schiell were baptized.



October 27th, we had four believers accept the Lord Jesus Christ into their hearts, Elizabeth Ellison, Seth Ellison, Jason Ellison, and Kathy Ellison.

God bless you all!

Joseph Egnor, Pastor
Mercedes Perez-Egnor, Reporter

FOREST VALLEY (LITTLE MIAMI)

Greetings from Forest Valley FWB Church.

In September, we had a drive for hygiene products for men and women for Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) of Springfield, Inc. This is, through God, to help individuals and families overcome homelessness. Our Soldiers for Christ group sponsored this.

Sept. 10th our women's group, Engage, started again with monthly meetings. This is our second year and it is lead by Amanda Ping and Tammi Spradlin.

Our Soldiers for Christ group plus a few extras traveled to Lancaster, PA on September 16-18th for the Sight and Sound production of Jesus. They had a wonderful stay and a safe trip.

Our church family had a picnic and fishing tournament on Sunday evening, Oct. 20. There was a lot of good food and everyone had fun.

We had our first Little Miami River Conference Nov. 2nd. We served a light lunch.

November 12th, Ada Eleyet turns 99. We love her a lot and are glad that she is a big part of our church family.

November 15th, **Selah** will be performing at our church at 7:00 P.M. They are a Christian men's trio. Tickets are \$15.00 and the doors open at 6:00 P.M.

Please keep praying for us. We have several people within our congregation and people we know with cancer, including our pastors father-in-law who has prostate cancer.

We celebrated Pastor Appreciation by giving Del a gift card and let him know how much we love him. We are happy he and his family have been with us for 11 1/2 years. His older daughter, Ashley and her husband, Kyle are expecting their first baby in April. Pray for them.

Del Wallace, Pastor
Jeanne Hauf, Reporter

TROY (LITTLE MIAMI)

When we pray together, we work together.

Hello and blessings from Troy FWB Church!

We are still a busy little church, spreading God's word! **The Homegates** on October 13th were a blessing while they sang and worshipped with us. Saturday, October 19th, the young people spent the afternoon at Young's Jersey Dairy. They all had a good time. Young and old alike!

November 9th at 3pm will be our next Building Fundraiser, a fish fry headed by Bro. **Jim Stepp**.

November 15-17th, Bro. **Russell Street** will be holding a three day revival at 7:00 every night.

Dec. 15th at 6pm will be our annual Christmas play directed by Mary Ann Preston. All are welcome to join us for any of these events.

Due to age and other health related issues, we have several members that are sick or can not come to church. Our pastor **Dwight Stump** will have his second biopsy on his leg for Melanoma November 26th. His faith is strong, we know that God will see him through this. Bro. **Jim Stepp** is battling some serious health issues as well. Please pray for all that are mentioned.

We have a praise report, Bro. Tony Cassada had a bout with cancer too, and thanks to God, he is now cancer FREE!

November 17th at 2:00 we will have our monthly nursing home service. We have been doing this for some time now. The senior citizens seem to really enjoy having church brought to them. It's a blessing to us as well.

Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas from our church to all our sister churches.

Please remember us in your prayers. As always, we keep you in our hearts and prayers. Til next time, God bless.

Dwight Stump, Pastor
Shirley Vogler, Reporter



International Mission News



Family Ministries receives highest level of accreditation on Arkansas children's ministries

Free Will Baptist Family Ministries is pleased to announce that after a detailed and extensive review process, our Arkansas children's ministries (*Florence Crittendon, Young Home, and Maggie House*) have all received a three year accreditation from CARF (Commission on the Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities.).

The CARF Three-Year accreditation represents the highest level of accreditation that can be awarded to an organization and shows the organization's substantial conformance to the CARF standards. An organization receiving a Three-Year Accreditation has put itself through a rigorous peer review process and has demonstrated to a team of surveyors during an on-site visit that its programs and services are of the highest quality, measurable, and accountable.

In his correspondence to Family Ministries notifying us of their endorsement of our Arkansas work, **Brian J. Boon**, Ph.D., President and CEO of CARF stated "This achievement is an indication of your organization's dedication and commitment to improving the quality of the lives of the persons served. Services, personnel, and documentation clearly indicate an established pattern of conformance to standards."

Upon learning of this prestigious endorsement, Family Ministries Chief Operating Officer **Jim Robinette** stated "I want to personally thank each of our Administrators and their staff for the hard work it took to achieve this moment. You are to be commended on all your efforts and dedication to our children and Family Ministries."

"For organizations and ministries who work with children, a three year CARF accreditation is the 'gold standard' for excellence", said Family Ministries Executive Director **Jim McComas**. "Free Will Baptist's can take pride that they have a ministry that is not only caring for hurting children, but is doing it with the highest level of quality and professionalism."

Stay Connected



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Central Ohio Conference Revival

November 24-26

Sunday Service at 6:00 pm
Monday-Tuesday Services at 7:00 pm

Redeemer FWB Church
170 SR 56 NW
London, Ohio 43140

Rev. Mike Baldwin, Pastor



Edwin Hayes

Bulgaria: A biopsy on **Keren Delgado's** thyroid was taken October 30th. Pray for peace and courage while awaiting results. Ask God to give her opportunities to witness of His greatness. Pray, if God wills, she will experience complete healing. Pray God will be glorified regardless of the outcome.

Persecution: The war-torn, middle-eastern country of Syria holds the Number 11 spot on Open Doors 2019 World Watch List. Muslim-background believers suffer greatly in Syria. At least 25 Christians are held by ISIS. War means people, Christian and non-Christian, often lack basic necessities. Ask God to provide the physical needs of the people and to use the help to encourage Christians and lead unbelievers to **Jesus**.

Mission Family: Continue to pray for **Theo Lytle** (14-month-old grandson of former missionaries to Panama, **Steve and Judy Lytle**) and his family. Barring the Great Physician's intervention, his condition is terminal. Pray for physical comfort for Theo as he is weaned off various medications, etc. Ask God to be near to the family, giving comfort, strength, and confidence in His plan.

Japan: Pray for **Doug and Miriam Bishop** as they serve the Miharashidai Chapel. Praise Him for 20-30 kids who hear the gospel each month during Joy Kids Club. Pray for wisdom as they seek to provide a weekly Sunday school for these children.

India: Pray for our pastors, partners, and Christian family in India as they face severe persecution. More than 200 people accepted Christ as Savior in a three-month period. Pray these young believers will remain faithful despite opposition. Pray the Word will sink deep into their hearts and Satan will not be able to steal them away.

Spain: Pray for **Anthony Edgmon** as he meets with three teen boys on Mondays for discipleship studies. Ask God to use these students to begin an awakening within their school(s). Pray also for Anthony's knee. Ask God to give him strength and perseverance.

Bulgaria: Praise God for the four (out of 12) people participating in a Tuesday Bible study who are reading the Bible for the first time. Praise Him for the students of the Svishtov church who are sharing their faith and inviting friends to church. Thank Him for the faithfulness of **Tim and Lydia Awtrey** as they serve Him in a hard place through difficult circumstances.

Japan: Pray for **Rusty Carney** as he works to provide Japanese people with a message of hope through YouTube testimonies of Japanese Christians. More than 20,000 Japanese men and women commit suicide each year. Pray today's launch (October 30) goes smoothly. Pray those considering suicide will find the videos and know God's love, mercy, forgiveness, and grace will provide them with the hope, peace, and strength they need.

France: Pray for **Steve and Becky Riggs** as they shepherd the Châteaubriant congregation and lead them through remodeling their new meeting place. Ask God to provide unity as church members work together to renovate the building. Pray friends of church members will volunteer skilled labor to speed the progress. Pray God will use the church to witness to neighbors and friends with genuine love and concern.

Bulgaria: Praise God for a woman in Vehtovo who received a New Testament during an exploratory visit to the village. Thank Him for her desire to study the Bible. Pray for **Josh and Lydia Provov** and **Sevdi** as they minister to her. Ask God to use this woman to begin a church in this village.

Côte d'Ivoire: Pray for Pastors **Silas Noufé** and **Silas Kouassi** (also president of the Ivoirian Free Will Baptist national association) as they resume ministry following their visit to the States. Thank Him for His provision while they traveled. Pray for their families, ministries, and churches in Abidjan and Bouna, respectively.

Bulgaria: Pray for Jonathan and Amy as they seek villages to host Christmas parties. Pray the villages that agree will become fertile ground for the gospel. Pray their English clubs will provide opportunities to speak Truth into students' lives as they build relationships.

Samburu: Pray for **Victoria Little** as she returns to the States in about a week and reacclimates to the climate and culture following her two-year internship in Sesia. Ask God to renew her physically and spiritually.

Globally: Ask God to strengthen the faith of those living in persecution. Pray He will fill them with His peace, comfort, and joy in the midst of suffering. Pray they will persevere and their tormentors will see Christ's love and forgiveness in them.

Mission Family: Pray for former missionaries struggling with a variety of health problems: **Bobby and Sue Aycock** (Brazil), **Jan Banks** (Japan and IM Board), **Florine Coscia** (Brazil), **Ledgel and Sharon Ferguson** (Ivory Coast and France), **Glenda Fulcher** (Uruguay and Panama), **Mirial Gainer** (Japan), **Joe Haas** (France), **Sherwood and Vada Lee** (Ivory Coast), **Steve Lytle** (Panama, IM office), **Jerry Pinkerton** (Côte d'Ivoire), **Lloyd Plunkett** (Côte d'Ivoire), **Amy Robinson** (Uruguay), and **Don Robirds** (Brazil, IM office).

Hospital Update



John Stanley, former clerk of the Community West Jefferson Church has undergone two surgeries and is awaiting another surgery.

Bernard Wheeler, former deacon of the Columbus First and Westside Churches had knee replacement surgery in September. He is now home recovering.

Jeff Hayes, son of Belle's Chapel FWB Pastor **Willie Gene Hayes** was able to come to their homecoming September 29th for the first time after several months in the hospital with a severe illness.

Rutland Pastor **Ed Barney** had shoulder replacement surgery on October 25th in Gallipolis. He is now home recovering.

Chris Webb, (son of the late Gene Webb, Longtime FWB Family ministry rep for Ohio) had open heart surgery. He then suffered a stroke in September and was in University Hospital in Columbus.

Good Hope FWB Pastor **Paul Peterson**, was released from the hospital in September after suffering a broken hip.

Ruth Ann Castle, Ohio State Association Bookkeeper was taken for tests on her heart September 5th to Mt. Carmel Hospital. She is scheduled for surgery on December 6th.

Dick Shaw, from the Fairview Church had a permanent spinal stimulator inserted for his foot pain on September 12th.

Brother **Larry Parsons** from the Bucyrus FWB Church is being treated for cancer. He is the Treasurer of the Northern Ohio Conference.

Dean (Noonie) Lewis from the First Dayton Church underwent medical tests on October 24th.

Paul Etterling Sr., former Ohio Mission Treasurer and member of the Porter Church was admitted to the hospital October 29th for tests.

Laura Pond, wife of Shelby FWB Pastor Matt Pond had a severe anaphylactic reaction October 31st. They were able to give epinephrine and other meds to stop it. She was taken to OSU Hospital.

STONEY RUN (PINE CREEK)

Greetings from Stoney Run FWB Church in West Portsmouth. We remain always faithful in our God. We celebrate the baptism of these believers, Rhonda and Joel Webster on September 3rd. We rejoice and give thanks to God for the new life of this wonderful couple! Our wonderful Pastor Crad blessed us each

Wednesday with a passionate night of teaching from the book of James. "God bless you" to all the guest preachers who have provided us with the word of God.

The ladies had another successful yard sale the first week of October. Our Lord truly supplies our needs. Once again we are able to provide complete Thanksgiving dinners for struggling families. We are having another sale in November with a variety of clothing and household items. As always, all profits go to stock our food pantry.

Current events: Wednesday teachings with many great spiritual lessons to behold. Practice has already begun for our Christmas performance which will be on December 15th. Everyone is welcome! We pray everyone has a blessed Thanksgiving and Christmas.

"And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful." Colossians 3:15

Craddock Frye, Pastor
Erin Cox, Reporter

FAITH (SOUTH-CENTRAL)

Greetings from Faith FWB Church!

We have recently started a youth ministry on Sunday nights. We are focusing more on the younger ages at this time, but we hope we grow and branch off into several age groups. We already see God's blessings on this ministry.

We had our annual Sunday School picnic on September 8th. We gathered at Kachelmacher Park for Sunday School, worship service and a picnic. As usual, it was a blessing to worship with God's people and enjoy fellowship.

October 20th was Friend Day! We are thankful for those who were able to bring a guest that day. The ladies had an amazing potluck prepared after service like usual.

This year seems to be a year for surgeries and illness. Continue to pray for Bro. Garry Buck and Bro. Jacob Tucker as they continue to recover. Also keep in your prayers Sis. Angie Vanover and Sis. Teresa Gibson who recently had surgeries in September and are recovering.

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

PORTER (PORTER)

Autumn has arrived at Porter FWB Church and we welcome it with open arms! We began September with our annual homecoming service. This year we celebrated our 202nd anniversary! Our Sunday school lesson was brought to us by JD Emmett and our guest speaker for the morning worship service was **Eric Thomsen**, managing editor of ONE Magazine. Both speakers did an excellent job and we are grateful that they chose to spend the day with us. We also had a great afternoon service led by **Neil Gilliland** filled with worship, reflection, and singing. It was a real blessing to celebrate 202 years of God's faithfulness to the Porter Church

family.

We hosted Porter Community Day in October. This day included inflatables and games as well as a cruise in. The day ended with the annual bean dinner and craft sale hosted by our Women Active for Christ. This year the group was raising money not only to support their chosen missions projects, but also to help fund the Beth King Memorial Scholarship.

In September, the 2019 Beth King Memorial Scholarship recipients were chosen. Sarah Cunningham and Jenna Young were both presented with scholarship funds to help cover the cost of their college education. We are delighted that these young women continue to honor God in the way that they live their lives!

Mark Price, Pastor
Tehra Clevenger, Reporter

ZALESKI

"The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy." Psalm 103:8 Aren't you so blessed with the Lord's endless mercy and His grace for each new day? What an awesome Lord! He has truly blessed our church and has answered prayers. We are truly thankful to the Lord. We have honored our pastor **Mark Rood** and his wife, **Teresa** during Pastor/Wife Appreciation Month in October. We presented them with a card shower, ice cream and cake, a carry-in dinner and a book. We gave them a monetary gift and they received other gifts. Mark and Teresa have done so much for us and blessed us with bringing God's word, singing, playing the piano and may other things. Please remember them and their children in prayer.

We had a Gideon speaker, **Kelly Leffler** speak for us in September.

The youth and their teachers had a lock-in Oct. 26th. They played games, had refreshments and a good time was had by all. They will be doing France as their missionary country. They will be fixing food representing France. The Beginner class has been collecting money for Mr. Christian from the Philippines.

We will be doing Christmas dinners in December and delivering them to the seniors and shut-ins. Please remember our nursing home ministry, our nation, leaders, the military and their families. Remember our youth and seniors that they'll stay strong against Satan's tricks.

Please pray for Nancy Rood and her sister Gail in your prayers. They are a blessing to our church and we miss them when they are not able to with us.

We wish you a blessed Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Tell someone you love them and really mean it!

Mark Rood, Pastor
Linda McKibben, Reporter

ROSEDALE (CAPITAL CITY)

Fall is in full gear with God's beautiful splendor all around us.

Our annual hog roast was a great success with great attendance. The weather was perfect, thank you God for answered prayer. A huge

thank you to Mike Moran, Chuck Baldwin, Joseph Baldwin, Paul Fraley and countless others who work making sure everyone walks away with wonderful memories of this day.

Pastor appreciation was held Oct. 20th. While this special day is set aside to honor our pastors and their families, hopefully, our pastors, **Jason Meade** and associate pastor **Paul Moore** know how special they are to us each and every day. We did something different this year, those in attendance were given the opportunity to give a testimony of what each family means to us. Gifts were given, their favorite singing group, our youth sang for them which are always a blessing. May we never take them for granted; God sent them and their families to us at a time when we were without a pastor for two years. Thankful for His timing. While the wait was tough, we are thankful for those that endured during this time. God has blessed us in more ways than we ever thought possible.

We are looking forward to hosting our Capital City Conference November 16th.

We were a part of the service for Rev. **Freddy Dutton** and his wife **Terry**. They have been in the ministry for 50 years. May God continue to bless them in all they do.

Our Veteran's Day service will be held Nov. 10th. Our pastor's wife, **Abby Meade** heads this up with help from Kim Baldwin and other volunteers. This is a great service to honor our veterans. If you have nowhere to be on that day, please join us. God bless our veterans.

We continue to have lost family members in service. Let's continue to remember them in your prayers and our pastor, associate pastor and their families as well.

Jason Meade, Pastor
Bev Fraley, Clerk

UNITY (CUYAHOGA-LORAIN)

Greetings from Unity FWB Church! We had a wonderful end to the summer at our church.

September 9-13th we held our revival with Rev **Mike Blanton** preaching. We enjoyed hearing **Mike Blanton and Evidence**, the singers at Unity, and **Tammy Jones Robinette** that week as well. Four precious souls were saved; we are so thankful for the spirit-filled week.

We had a baptism service Sunday, October 6th where several were baptized. What a blessing it is to see folks follow the Lord's direction and pledge their devotion to Him through water baptism. It was an exciting service for our church.

October 3-5th, the men of Unity went on the second annual Unity Men's Retreat. Twenty two men spent time in Sawmill Creek learning how to "go the distance," worshipping, and fellowshiping together. Thank you to Josh Workman, Michael Collins, and Greg Sword for all of their help in organizing this event.

On Friday, October 25th we held our sixth annual Fall Festival Celebration/Trunk or Treat at the church. There were games and snacks and we were able to share the gospel with over 100 children and their parents that may not have heard it otherwise! We want to thank Heather Wagner for all of her hard work and planning, JoAnna Smith for decorating so beautifully and all the volunteers that participated that evening!

We honored our pastor and assistant Pastor and their wives with gifts for Pastor Appreciation, and a dinner the evening of October 27th. We are so grateful for them – the gift was just a small token of how much we love them!

We hope you have a wonderful fall season and a Happy Thanksgiving!

Eugene Crouch, Pastor
Angie Barger, Reporter

Attention: Ambassador Reporters

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE!

The deadline for the
January-February Issue will be
Noon, January 1st

Leadership Transition Announced in Welch Education Department

Welch College has initiated a leadership transition in the Department of Teacher Education, according to Provost Dr. **Matthew McAfee**. **Stephen Beck** has been named Associate Undergraduate Dean and will assume more responsibility overseeing students in teacher education, effective immediately.

In this role Mr. Beck will work alongside Undergraduate Dean Dr. **Etta Patterson**. He will be responsible for mentoring secondary and middle school teacher candidates, managing student teacher placements, and overseeing student admissions into the program. Dr. Patterson will continue to work with education faculty and staff and provide overall leadership for the department during a year-long transition period, after which Mr. Beck will become Undergraduate Dean.

“We are excited to have Mr. Beck take on a more prominent role in leading teacher education at Welch College,” said Matthew McAfee. “His experience as principal in a cross-cultural setting uniquely qualifies him for the task. Our intent when we hired him was for him to assume the position of Undergraduate Dean when he completed his Ed.D. Now that he is nearing the completion of that degree, the time is right for Mr. Beck to assume greater responsibility in departmental leadership.”

Mr. Beck recently earned an Ed.S. from Union University and is set to complete the Ed.D. there in the spring of 2020. Mr. Beck came to Welch in 2016 after serving nine years as Principal of Free Will Christian School in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands. Since coming to Welch, Mr. Beck has been teaching both education and math courses and has led the department in gaining state approval for a new bachelor’s degree in mathematics education.

“As enrollment in the Teacher Education Department increases, we must adapt to the needs of teacher candidates and respond to Tennessee Department of Education mandates,” says Dr. Patterson. “I welcome Mr. Stephen Beck to this role. He has continued to grow as an educational leader and will assume additional departmental responsibilities such as Math Program Coordinator, edTPA Coordinator, as well as other administrative duties.”

For more information about teacher education at Welch, please contact **Etta Patterson at 615-675-5310 or epatterson@welch.edu**.

Welch College Press Publishes The Apologetics of Leroy Forlines

Welch College Press released a new publication this summer, *The Apologetics of Leroy Forlines*, by **F. Leroy Forlines** and **J. Matthew Pinson**, according to managing editor **Matthew Bracey**.

“The book debuted at the National Association of Free Will Baptists with much enthusiasm and praise,” Bracey said. “We’re proud of this book and believe it honors the legacy that Mr. Forlines has left to us on the topics of apologetics and worldview thinking.”

As detailed on the book’s dust jacket, “In *The Apologetics of Leroy Forlines*, J. Matthew Pinson brings together select writings of F. Leroy Forlines on apologetics and the knowledge of God. He begins the volume with a lengthy essay on the apologetics of the foremost systematic theologian of the modern Free Will Baptist Church and the contemporary Reformed Arminian movement.”

“The ideas in this book are timely,” Forlines said. “My prayer is that God will add His blessing to this book, using it to extend His kingdom and give Him the glory that is due His name alone.”

Apologetics is the fourth publication from Welch College Press. Previous publications include:

- **J. Matthew Pinson, Matthew Steven Bracey, Matthew McAfee, and Michael Oliver**, *Sexuality, Gender, and the Church: A Christian Response to the New Cultural Landscape*

- **Christopher Talbot**, *Remodeling Youth Ministry: A Biblical Blueprint for Ministering to Students*

- **Phillip T. Morgan and J. Matthew Pinson**, *Light and Truth: A Seventy-fifth Anniversary Pictorial History of Welch College*

NEW RELEASE

THE APOLOGETICS OF
LEROY FORLINES



To purchase any of these titles, visit <https://welch.edu/welchpress>.



Statement from Welch College President Matt Pinson

While we cannot comment on an individual student’s case, Welch College believes that all persons are created in God’s image and thus have inherent dignity and should be treated with respect, compassion, and love. The College holds that God created humanity in two distinct and complementary sexes: male and female. The College acknowledges that the Fall of humanity into sin has introduced brokenness into God’s good creation, including in the realm of human sexuality. For example, some individuals experience a distressing confusion about their gender identity, perceiving a conflict between their biological reality and their psychological self-understanding.

Welch College believes that individuals experiencing such confusion—and the distress that usually accompanies it—should be treated with love and compassion. The College also believes that attempting to alter one’s bodily identity constitutes a rejection of God’s design for humanity. The College is also aware that such attempts all too rarely deliver on their promises to alleviate psychological and emotional suffering. The College thus invites all transgender individuals to trust fully in Christ and experience renewal in the gospel.

Welch College President **Matt Pinson** said, “Welch’s community standards hold that students are to obey God’s revealed will in Holy Scripture and avoid behaviors that constitute a rejection of the divine design for human sexuality. Our desire is to show individuals experiencing gender confusion the love and compassion of Christ while bearing witness to God’s design as revealed in Holy Scripture for his human creatures as male and female. We believe that a commitment to historic Christian teaching on human gender and sexuality must ever be melded with love, compassion, and sensitivity to people who are made in the image of God. Welch informs all members of its community of these beliefs, on which its decisions regarding admissions, hiring, housing, etc., are based. We will continue to pray for all people experiencing gender confusion while also honoring the values of this institution and its sponsoring denomination, which are shared by the Christian tradition over two millennia.”

Welch College Pave the Way Campaign

Welch College’s Pave the Way campaign is off to a great start as 40 local churches, 8 district associations, 2 states, 2 youth groups, 2 seniors groups, one Sunday school class, and one youth camp have supported the Building on the Legacy campaign by giving a brick with their group’s name. We have also had many people give a brick in memory or in honor of loved ones or for their family. Over 700 engraved bricks are now installed for everyone to enjoy viewing on our beautiful campus! It is exciting to watch students and guests come to the walkway and search for their names.

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| WHITE CLASS OF 2018 | CARLOS MIGUEL MIRELES CLASS OF 2018 | BENJAMIN GYNN CAMPBELL CLASS OF 2018 | BRANDON KYLE PRESLEY CLASS OF 2018 |
| MATTHEW JOHN SAUNDERS CLASS OF 2018 | TAYLOR AUSTIN PRUETT CLASS OF 2018 | BAILEY CHEYENNE METCALF CLASS OF 2018 | FRANKLIN T. CLASS OF 2018 |
| NANDEZ CLASS OF 2018 | SAMUEL DAVID BENNINGHOFF CLASS OF 2018 | ELISHA KENNETH CAMERON CLASS OF 2018 | ERIC LANSDON COWART CLASS OF 2018 |
| IN HONOR OF R. MATTHEW MCAFFEE | BRISTOL FWB CHURCH NEW BRUNSWICK CANADA | ERNIE AND SUZANNE LEWIS 1978-1979 | RYAN & ASH JOSH & ASHLE DEREK |

There is a section of empty bricks which we want to replace with the names of more faithful friends who are such a vital part of who we are. We would love to see your family and church have an engraved brick added to these that are here. This year, we are promoting a buy one brick (\$250) and get one half price (\$125). You may give as many bricks as you would like using this promotion price until the end of 2019. We plan to have the bricks installed before graduation in the spring.

You can email or call me (615-675-5360) with the information you would like placed on your brick. You can also place an order online (<https://bricksrus.com/donorsite/WelchCollege>) or mail your order using the attachment. You may use three lines with up to 21 characters (including spaces) per line. Thank you for your continued impact on the students at Welch College.

Merinda Parrish

Welch Marks Highest Fall Enrollment in 36 Years

Welch College enrolled the highest number of students in 36 years for the Fall 2019 semester, according to Provost Matthew McAfee. Total enrollment statistics indicate 426 students from 24 states, one territory, and five foreign countries, a 5.4 percent increase over last fall’s headcount. The fall of 1983 was the last fall semester that the enrollment was higher, with a headcount of 467.

“We are thankful for the modest increase in enrollment numbers this year,” McAfee said. “The Lord continues to bless our efforts in equipping leaders for Christ’s kingdom work.”

The increase in new students this year occurred with both freshmen and transfer students. This fall 84 new students enrolled in traditional on-campus programs at Welch. A total of 116 new students joined the student body for the new school year, including graduate, online, and adult studies enrollments.

At press time the college reported 185 dormitory students, 36 commuter students, 33 graduate students, 31 Adult Studies students, 50 Online/Lifetime Learning students, and 91 dual enrollment students. The fall’s full-time equivalency (FTE) is 307 students.

“The composition of the enrollment at private colleges and universities has shifted since the turn of the century, and we’ve seen this at Welch,” Pinson said. “When I was a student in the mid-1980s, we had a large number of married students in their late twenties and thirties who had pulled up stakes and moved across the country to attend college. Those days are gone. That kind of student is now engaging in non-traditional delivery systems, including online and evening classes. It’s exciting, though, to see an upward trend in enrollment occurring across all sectors at Welch.”

For more information about Welch College, email recruit@welch.edu or visit the college’s website at www.welch.edu.

Welch College Named 16th Best Regional College in the South in U.S. News & World Report's Best Colleges Rankings

Welch College received notification that the institution ranks 16th among "Regional Colleges South" in U.S. News & World Report's 2020 edition of America's Best Colleges rankings, according to Welch president **Matt Pinson**.

The "Best Regional Colleges" category where Welch is ranked includes 273 institutions that focus on undergraduate education and offer a range of degree programs in the traditional liberal arts as well as in professional fields such as business, nursing, and education. Colleges in this category are ranked within four geographic regions: North, South, Midwest, and West.

U.S. News rankings offer opportunities to judge the relative quality of institutions based on widely accepted indicators of excellence: peer assessment, graduation and retention rates, faculty resources, student selectivity, financial resources, alumni giving, and more.

"We are delighted about this high ranking in U.S. News and World Report's Best Colleges," Pinson said. "It shows our quality to prospective students and their parents, as well as to alumni and supporters. It shows that academic excellence can coexist with a strong commitment to Christian faith and life as the center of the Welch College experience."

"The first time we were ranked in this publication, back in 2010, we ranked 54th," Pinson mentioned. "And even that was in the top half of all the Southern schools ranked in the Best Regional Colleges category. So in 10 years we've gone from 54th to our ranking of 16th for 2020. To put this in perspective, the next ten colleges in the list that Welch outranked had an average enrollment more than five times our enrollment and an average endowment almost nine times our endowment."

Welch received especially high marks in five strategic areas. Compared to the other 123 institutions in the Regional Colleges South category, Welch ranked:

#1 in faculty-student ratio

#3 in the percentage of classes under 20 students

#4 in students who were in the top 25% of their high school graduating class

#5 in first-year student retention rate

#10 in alumni giving rate

Welch Provost **Matthew McAfee** said, "We are grateful to have this evaluative benchmark for our institution. It provides us with an external measurement that helps us to evaluate our quality as an institution of higher learning. Our faculty and staff are to be commended for their effort in helping us attain this level of excellence."

More information is available about the rankings and methodology in the annual America's Best Colleges guidebook at: www.usnews.com/collegemeth. For more information about Welch, email gotowelch@welch.edu or visit www.welch.edu.

WAKEFIELD (PORTER)

Greetings to our brothers and sisters in the Lord. Well we've come through some mighty hot weather, and now well into the fall, and then comes winter (Brrr) . With all the changing seasons, one thing that never changes is "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever." Hebrews 13:8. Thank God for that.

Since last letter Bennie Howard was in the hospital to have a stent put in after having chest pain. Your reporter had surgery to repair a rare hernia and spent several days in the hospital. Several in the church have had sickness. One day soon we'll go to a place where there will be no more sickness, death or pain!

We had our homecoming the last Sunday in September with Brother **Bob Holbrook** preaching and **Scott Campbell** singing. A good service and delicious dinner was enjoyed.

October 13th we had the **Gray Family** from Greenup Kentucky singing and they were a blessing and knew who they were singing about.

On Tuesday, October 15th thirteen members of the church went to The Ark Encounter in Williamstown Kentucky and really enjoyed it.

We had a Gideon speaker on October 20th in

the morning service.

On October 27th we had a combined Old Fashioned and Pastor Appreciation Day. Pastor Lowell and his wife Disa were presented with various gift cards. Let's keep on keeping on until **Jesus** comes or God calls us home.

Lowell King, Pastor
Barb Conley, Reporter

ANTIOCH (PINE CREEK)

We will be celebrating Old Fashion Days Service on November 24th at 11:00am. Pastor **Rick Henderson** will be preaching. The **Satterfield Family** will be visiting, as guest singers. Dinner will be immediately following. Games, old time photos with a backdrop will available, food and fun.

We have recently lost two of our faithful members of our church. Sister Mary Bocook passed away October 21st and Sister Linda Sexton, our treasurer passed away on October 30th. They both will be missed.

Brother Benjamin Lauderback joined our church on October 13th. He transferred to our church from the Tick Ridge FWB.

Rick Henderson, Pastor
Benjamin Lauderback, Reporter

FELLOWSHIP TRACT LEAGUE

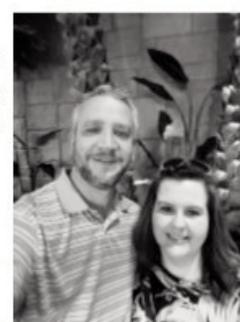
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Daryl & Michelle Grimes are **Free Will Baptist Church Planters** in Erie, Pa. Pastor Grimes started **Ray of Hope Travel** to supplement his income as a church planter. He has a passion to serve Free Will Baptists and the body of Christ at large by helping individuals, local churches and associations plan trips to the **Holy Land**. He is affiliated with KHM Travel Group and has partnered with ETS Tours, which offers several options each year to visit the Holy Land.



Daryl & Michelle Grimes

As a home based travel agent he can serve ministries in all 50 states! He can also book and help you plan and organize your next mission trip, staff or marriage retreat. He would even be glad to help you plan a trip for your pastoral staff for Pastor Appreciation Month. The options are endless!

- Holy Land Tours
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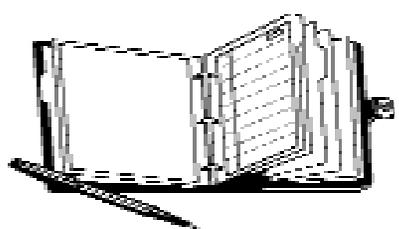
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Coming Events

For Ohio Free Will Baptists



Central Ohio

November 16
November 24-26
December 14

Capital City Conference meeting at Rosedale FWB, Jason Meade, Pastor
Central Ohio Conference, **Revival** w/Edwin Hayes, meeting at Redeemer FWB, Mike Baldwin, Pastor
Franklin Conference meeting at Reynoldsburg FWB, Jerry Sargent, Pastor

Northern Ohio

November 16
December 7

Northern Ohio Conference meeting at First Marion FWB, Jerry Copley, Pastor
North & Western Conference meeting at Lima FWB, Dave Coffey, Pastor

Southern Ohio

November 9
November 9
November 10
November 16

South-Central Conference meeting at Puritan FWB, Jamie Fortner, Pastor
Pine Creek Conference meeting at Bloom FWB, Kenny Klaiber, Pastor
Coalton, **Old Fashioned Day**, Tim Simpson, Pastor
Porter Conference meeting at Hamilton Glades FWB

The TOP 5 Reasons...

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OHIO TOGETHER WAY RECEIPTS

September-October 2019

| | CO-OP | AMBASS | ST MISSN | ST ASSOC | OYC | SPEC MIN | NATL MINIST | TOTAL |
|--------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| AMBASSADOR | \$ 397.00 | \$ - | \$ 397.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 794.00 | \$ 1,588.00 |
| ANTIOCH | \$ - | \$ 12.00 | \$ 40.00 | \$ 150.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 60.00 | \$ 262.00 |
| BEATTY | \$ 371.15 | \$ 50.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 130.60 | \$ 551.75 |
| BETHESDA CHAPEL | \$ 150.00 | \$ 30.00 | \$ 50.00 | \$ 50.00 | \$ - | \$ 100.00 | \$ 50.00 | \$ 430.00 |
| BUCYRUS | \$ - | \$ 100.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 100.00 |
| CALVARY-RAYENNA | \$ - | \$ 10.00 | \$ - | \$ 20.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 45.00 | \$ 75.00 |
| CANAAN | \$ 500.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 200.00 | \$ - | \$ 366.66 | \$ 2,150.00 | \$ 3,216.66 |
| CANAAN LAND | \$ 400.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 3,500.00 | \$ 200.00 | \$ 4,100.00 |
| CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP | \$ - | \$ 20.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 400.00 | \$ 420.00 |
| COLUMBUS FIRST | \$ 334.60 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 50.00 | \$ 384.60 |
| COMPASSION | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 100.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 100.00 |
| DOGWOOD RIDGE | \$ - | \$ 50.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 50.00 |
| EASTSIDE | \$ 150.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 150.00 |
| FAITH-CLEVELAND | \$ 150.00 | \$ 20.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 80.00 | \$ 250.00 |
| FIRST CHILLICOTHE | \$ 976.50 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 976.50 |
| FIRST SPRINGFIELD | \$ 1,853.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 1,853.00 |
| FOREST VALLEY | \$ 2,702.09 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 2,702.09 |
| GAHANNA | \$ - | \$ 61.00 | \$ 84.00 | \$ 41.00 | \$ 42.00 | \$ - | \$ 272.00 | \$ 500.00 |
| GARDEN CITY | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 50.00 | \$ 50.00 |
| GOOD HOPE | \$ - | \$ 31.00 | \$ - | \$ 120.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 151.00 |
| HARRISON | \$ - | \$ 60.00 | \$ 50.00 | \$ 200.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 310.00 | \$ 620.00 |
| HILLSBORO | \$ - | \$ 100.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 100.00 |
| HILLVIEW | \$ 1,200.68 | \$ 10.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 1,210.68 |
| JACKSON CONFERENCE | \$ 25.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 25.00 |
| LEBANON | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 75.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 300.00 | \$ 375.00 |
| LIGHTHOUSE | \$ 250.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 250.00 |
| MANSFIELD | \$ - | \$ 25.00 | \$ 150.00 | \$ 75.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 387.00 | \$ 637.00 |
| MARYSVILLE | \$ - | \$ 25.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 25.00 |
| MCARTHUR | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 25.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 125.00 | \$ 150.00 |
| MOUNT STERLING | \$ - | \$ 100.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 100.00 |
| NEVILLE | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 300.00 | \$ 300.00 |
| NEWARK | \$ 897.50 | \$ 25.00 | \$ 250.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 1,172.50 |
| NEW BEGINNINGS-MANSFIELD | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 75.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 75.00 |
| NEW HOPE-CHILLICOTHE | \$ 649.30 | \$ - | \$ 20.00 | \$ 20.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 234.19 | \$ 923.49 |
| NEW HOPE-LUCASVILLE | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 500.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 1,000.00 | \$ 1,500.00 |
| NEW ROAD | \$ 857.00 | \$ - | \$ 50.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 805.00 | \$ 1,712.00 |
| NORTH | \$ 1,671.81 | \$ - | \$ 15.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 186.00 | \$ 1,872.81 |
| OAK HILL | \$ 76.19 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 76.19 |
| PINE CREEK | \$ - | \$ 30.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 30.00 |
| PINE GROVE | \$ 100.00 | \$ 40.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 140.00 |
| PIQUA | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 100.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 100.00 |
| PORTER | \$ 900.00 | \$ 60.00 | \$ 663.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 570.00 | \$ 2,193.00 |
| PURITAN | \$ 279.99 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 279.99 |
| REYNOLDSBURG | \$ 200.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 50.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 200.00 | \$ 450.00 |
| RITTMAN COMMUNITY | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 300.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 300.00 | \$ 150.00 | \$ 750.00 |
| ROSEDALE | \$ 1,710.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 1,710.00 |
| SAMANTHA | \$ 1,721.00 | \$ - | \$ 590.31 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 190.00 | \$ 2,501.31 |
| SCIOTODALE | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 60.00 | \$ 350.00 | \$ 410.00 |
| SOUTHWEST | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 200.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 200.00 |
| SPRINGFIELD | \$ 725.00 | \$ 60.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 250.00 | \$ 1,035.00 |
| SWAUGER VALLEY | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 200.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 200.00 |
| TICK RIDGE | \$ 50.00 | \$ 20.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 70.00 |
| UNION | \$ 500.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 500.00 |
| UNITY | \$ 2,000.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 2,350.00 | \$ 4,350.00 |
| URBANA | \$ 1,160.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 200.00 | \$ 1,360.00 |
| WAKEFIELD | \$ - | \$ 20.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 24.00 | \$ 44.00 |
| WESTERVILLE | \$ 2,702.49 | \$ - | \$ 300.28 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 800.56 | \$ 3,752.93 | \$ 7,556.26 |
| WESTSIDE | \$ - | \$ 50.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 50.00 |
| WOODLAND CHAPEL | \$ 1,397.76 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 1,397.76 |
| STATE MINISTRY OFFERING | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 50.00 | \$ 40.00 | \$ 10.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 100.00 |
| OTHER GIFTS | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 150.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 30.00 | \$ 400.00 | \$ 580.00 |
| TOTAL FROM GIFTS | \$ 27,058.06 | \$ 1,009.00 | \$ 3,409.59 | \$ 1,991.00 | \$ 52.00 | \$ 5,157.22 | \$ 16,365.72 | \$ 55,042.59 |
| INTEREST | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 1,871.75 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 1,871.75 |
| BROTHERHOOD PARTNERSHIP | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 15,000.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 15,000.00 |
| BOOKSTORE SALES | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 696.80 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 696.80 |
| SERVICES | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 1,662.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 1,662.00 |
| ADVERTISERS | \$ - | \$ 192.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 192.00 |
| MISC INCOME | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 50.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 50.00 |
| TOTAL OTHER INCOME | \$ - | \$ 192.00 | \$ - | \$ 19,280.55 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 19,472.55 |
| TOTAL INCOME | \$ 27,058.06 | \$ 1,201.00 | \$ 3,409.59 | \$ 21,271.55 | \$ 52.00 | \$ 5,157.22 | \$ 16,365.72 | \$ 74,515.14 |

LOCKBOURNE (TRINITY)

Greetings from Lockbourne Free Will Baptist Church. A group from our church recently took a trip to Williamstown, KY for the Ark Encounter which was a wonderful experience. They toured the life-sized reconstruction of Noah's Ark which allowed them to experience what Noah's life may have been like. They shared lunch together and good fellowship on the bus ride.

Joshua Stevens did a wonderful job again this year organizing and running our stand at Groveport's Apple Butter Day. We are grateful for all of his hard work and for those who helped that day and also for those who donated items. This annual fundraiser was a great success with \$1,500 being raised.

We honored our pastor on Pastor Appreciation Day with dinner and fellowship after our morning service. Bro. **Clay Baldwin** preached and he and his group also provided special singing. We are truly grateful for our Pastor **Leon Stevens** who is always faithful to preach the word, who is instant in season and out and who watches over the flock at Lockbourne. Thank you pastor for all that you do for the Lord and His church.

We have been having some wonderful services and recently four people were saved and three were baptized. God is so faithful and we give Him praise for drawing these precious souls unto Himself. Thanks to **Kathy Stevenson** who provided special singing the day of the baptism.

Our prayers go out to Martha and Charlie Thacker on the loss of their granddaughter, Mara Browning. Please continue to pray for the entire family during their time of loss.

Leon Stevens, Pastor
Janelle Sagraves, Reporter

SAMANTHA (FRANKLIN)

Greetings in the name of **Jesus**. I have been allowed to write one more time about our recent church activities. All glory to God for His grace and mercy.

Our ladies that attended the Women's Retreat on Sept 13-14th were, Linda Holland, April Mcquire, Pat Purden, Kathy Hampton, Megan Blevins and Wanda Shelley. I asked the ladies of all the good things they heard and learned while there, "tell me one important message you brought back with you." They were told, "God is always listening to us, but we have to be quiet enough to hear what He's saying to us." A reminder of these words, "*Be still and know that I am God.*" The ladies time was blessed fellowshiping with other sisters in Christ.

October 5th Bro. Wiley performed a wedding in our church.

October 6th a young lady was baptized, obeying **Jesus'** commandment for us to repent, believe and be baptized.

October 20th in the morning service **The Gibbons Family** blessed us with their songs and testimonies inspired by the Holy Spirit. God truly poured out His spirit upon us. We were abundantly blessed. That evening, we celebrated our pastor by tokens of our love and appreciation. We had a carry in dinner of various delectables. We have a very unusual pastor. Bro. Wiley gives tirelessly of himself, by visiting our homes, nursing homes and no hospital is too far away for him to visit. He'll never leave without a prayer for the various conditions and needs. He's not looking for man's praise but working toward his heavenly reward and promise.

God is still blessing our church family; may He continue to keep us all in His care and in His will. God is good all the time.

Wiley B. Perkins, Pastor
Eleanor Cumberland, Reporter

2020 Ohio Men's Retreat

****\$125 for those registered before January 6th**

No refunds after January 13th

****\$145 for those registered after January 6th**



Kyle Chadwick



Mike Gillen



Tyler Penn



Allen Harner



John Meade Jr.

January 23-25

**Heartland Retreat Center
Marengo, Ohio**



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