

**127th Annual Session
Arkansas State Association
of
Free Will Baptists**

**May 20-21, 2024
Camp Beaverfork
Conway, Arkansas**

**Theme:
Discipleship**



Pastor Ben Gibson
Monday Night



Pastor Blaine Rogers
Tuesday Morning



Pastor Kevin
Barnett
Tuesday
Afternoon

TheVision

First FWB Jonesboro--baptism

On Sunday, March 10th, it was an exciting day as Associate/ Youth Pastor Chase Duncan baptized his college roommate, Dylan Stevens. Chase led Dylan to Christ following a late night study session.

Chase has started a college Bible study that regularly has 15-20 Arkansas State University students in attendance.

Rev. Mike Corley is the lead pastor of the First FWB Church Jonesboro.



First FWB Corning--baptism & new members

March 17th was a big day for the Corning FWB Church. It culminated eight weeks of learning about the importance of church membership and what the Free Will Baptist church believes about important topics such as the Gospel and its ordinances, the Trinity, justification, sanctification, glorification, and stewardship. Four followed in believer's baptism, and along with 12 others, joined the church.

Pastor Ryan Curtis pastors this church in the NE corner of our state. He says, "We are overjoyed for everybody and are truly amazed at what God is doing in our church."



First FWB, Charleston Honors Deacon

February 18th was a special day for Deacon Mike Hewett. The First FWB Church in Charleston honored him for 50 years of service to the church as a deacon. And the contributions of his wife, Brenda, were not left out of the honoring.

Pastor Jeff Holland leads this vibrant church just east of Ft. Smith. Brother Jeff also serves as the moderator of the Unity District Association.



The First Hispanic District Meeting

On Saturday, February 17, 2024, a little history was made among Arkansas Free Will Baptists. The Asociacion Hispana Bautista Libre de Arkansas held their organizational district meeting. Officers and delegates from the six churches met at Iglesia Hispana Bautista Libre Albedrio de Conway for worship, fellowship, and business. Pastor Micael Gonzalez opened the morning with a devotional message. He then led the delegation throughout the day's activities.

Hispanic Director Rolando Delgado shared upcoming events and projects for the district. A strong appeal was made to youth and adults to participate in mission trip opportunities which were outlined. Dates for an upcoming missions conference in April, a ladies' conference in May, a Hispanic camp/retreat in August, and a pastors retreat in October were announced. The delegates were encouraged to attend both the State Association (May), as well as the National Convention in July.

Following a time of worship through music, Pastor Cesar Barrios shared the morning message from Acts 2:42-47. At the conclusion of the worship service, we enjoyed a fine meal of spaghetti and chicken Alfredo, and, yes, more good fellowship.

Future dates for district meetings were set. Consider attending one that meets in your area, it will bless you and the new addition to our family.

May 18 (Iglesia Bautista Libre Nueva Jerusalem de Dardanelle—10am)

August 31 (Iglesia Cristiana Fe An Accion de Star City—10am)

November 9 (Iglesia Bautista Libre Nueva Horizonte de Springdale—10am)



ASM Board Announces New Director

The Arkansas Student Ministries Board would like to announce Rev. Andy Haskins as Arkansas Free Will Baptist's new Youth Director.



Andy was born and raised in Oklahoma. He holds a bachelor's degree in Christian Ministry and Biblical Studies from Randall University. Andy and his wife, Amber, met while attending Randall University and have been married and serving in ministry for 19 years. They have been blessed with four sons: Charlie (15), Keygan (13), David (11), and Toby (8). They are also legal guardians of Amber's cousin, Byron, who is 42 and has Down's Syndrome.

The Haskins moved to Arkansas in November of 2014 to pastor the Ballew's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church. Andy served on the ASM Board from 2018 until January of this year. He also serves as clerk of the Polk Bayou District Association.

Andy says, "We are excited to begin this new season of ministry. I look forward to working with our churches all across the state to train future generations of believers to become actively engaged in the work of the local church and reaching the lost both at home and abroad. ASM is more than camp and CTS. I hope to come alongside our churches and associations that have their own camps or maybe they aren't able to participate in CTS, to encourage them and help find ways that they can invest in the lives of the students in their churches and communities in a meaningful and lasting way."

Andy will begin his new duties April 1st. Please pray for the Haskins family as they make the transition into this new position.

In Christ, You Are...
2024 Ministers' Wives' Retreat



Time in God's Word - Lessons from Rose: In Christ, You Are

...created to serve (Ephesians 2:10). Since we are His re-creation, we are enabled through Him to do good works. God doesn't just want to work THROUGH you, He wants to work in you.

... chosen to share (I Peter 2:9). One of the greatest tools of sharing is through hospitality. People may not remember what was served, but they will remember the feeling of being seen, loved and heard. If He is prompting you, He is preparing them.

...called to study (II Timothy 2:15). Study involves the total effort of mind, emotion, and will. Blessings follow obedience.



Rose Jones



Time in Sharing - During the final session, Jane Campbell encouraged the ladies to continue in God's Word through Bible studies, Christian books, websites, podcasts and blogs. Staying grounded in the Word is vital to ministry. Several recommendations were made by the ladies. Every pastor's wife was given a list of suggested helps.

Time in Fellowship & Fun - Thursday night was a fun time of "lock-in style" games. Wow! Those women were serious about winning! Shopping, flea marketing, hiking, and attending basketball games were all on the agenda Friday. You want to find hidden talent in a group of ministers' wives? Just give them "skit in a bag" and watch the creativity come to life. Fellowship and fun looked good on these ladies!

ACTS 1:8

Thank you for your continued and generous support of missions through our ACTS 1:8 program.

February / March Receipts

\$64,805.42

Arkansas State Meeting

Mark your calendar and plan on attending the **May 20-21**, 2024 State Meeting. It will be held at Camp Beaverfork in Conway.

Hotel information is in this edition of the VISION, as well as on the State website.

Pre-registration opened April 1st on the State website (www.arfwb.org).

The **Nomination Schedule**, **2025 budget proposals**, **board reports**, and the **program** will be on the State website.

Final registration numbers for the 2023 State Meeting came in at 163. We look forward to 2024's attendance to exceed that number.

There's a seat waiting for you!

Tentative State Calendar 2024

May

20-21 ARFWB State Meeting

27 Memorial Day (State Office Closed)

June

2-7 Teen Camp

9-14 Jr. High Camp

16-22 Kids Camp (split week)

July

4 Independence Day (State Office Closed)

21-24 NAFWB Convention, Tampa, FL

August

16-17 Evangelism Conference (Missouri)

September

2 Labor Day (State Office Closed)

16-18 Ministers Retreat, DeGray Lake Resort

20-21 AWM Retreat, Camp Beaverfork

October

7-8 Theological Symposium, Welch College

November

3 Daylight Saving Time Ends

28 Thanksgiving Day (State Office Closed)

December

25 Christmas Day (State Office Closed)

Pulpit Vacancies

The following churches are searching for a pastor:

Ballew's Chapel FWB Church, Grubbs
Chester FWB Church, Chester
Corbin Ferry FWB Church, Lake Providence
Daisy FWB Church, Kirby
First FWB Church, Greenwood
First FWB Church, Newport
Huntsville FWB Church, Huntsville
Oak Grove FWB Church, Eaton
Woodlawn FWB Church, Russellville

2024 ARFWB Nomination Schedule

**ARFWB State Meeting
Conway Hotel Information**

Position / Nominee	Term Ending	
		Holiday Inn Express
		2330 Sanders Road
<u>Executive Board</u>	2027	Conway, AR
Jason Sullivan*		501-205-1315
Randall Ray		Monday night -- \$134
		Tuesday night -- \$129
<u>Mission Board</u>	2027	Price per night does not include sales tax. Queen or King beds available.
Tim Forman*		****This hotel will honor military or senior discounts when mentioned.
Larry Little		Free hot breakfast available
<u>ASM Board</u>	2027	
Andy Haskins*		
Daniel Young*		
<u>CEM Board</u>	2027	Hampton Inn & Suites
Jason Nichols*		2400 Sanders Road
Greg Tucker		Conway, AR
		501-327-0200
		\$130 + Tax per night
		Queen or King available
<u>AWM Board</u>	2027	Booking Link: https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/deeplink/?ctyhocn=LITSFHX&group-Code=CHH901&arrivaldate=2024-05-20&departure-date=2024-05-21&cid=OM,WW,HILTONLINK,EN,-DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT
Melissa Haralson		
April Sullivan		
<u>Randall University Trustee</u>	2026	Deadline date for the special rate is 04/20/2024.
Jason Nichols		Free hot breakfast is available.
<u>FWB Family Ministries Trustee</u>	2027	
Johnny Miller		
<u>State Officers</u>		Fairfield Inn & Suites
<i>Moderator</i>		2260 Sanders Road
Tim Landers		Conway, AR
		501-505-8034
<i>Assistant Moderator</i>		\$109 + Tax per night
Kevin Barnett		Queen or King available
<i>Clerk</i>		
Amy Fitzgerald		
<i>Assistant Clerk</i>		
Ben Campbell		

[Book your group rate for Arkansas Freewill Baptist](#)

Free hot breakfast available.

A World Difference

During spring break of 2024 I went to Jamaica with my church. This Mission trip was something that I'd been praying about since the beginning of my school year. My parents had gone 2 years prior to this. I thought I knew what was going on. I knew that it was going to be difficult to see some of the conditions that people were living in. I knew that the people there didn't have even half of the resources the states have. What I didn't know, or prepare myself for, was how grateful these people are. They live their lives with such optimism! Most are dirt poor, with little money and little valuable possessions in our eyes. In their eyes it'll get better. Things could never look up for them, yet they are appreciative of the small things. Everyone is like that there. Even the kids! I will never forget the faces of those kids at schools we went to when we told them we had sweets. They lit up! Here, we look at a piece of candy and say "Where's the rest," we don't say thank you, we don't appreciate it. I know that I have never been so grateful for a little sweetie that I jumped for joy, or ran to tell everyone I knew that I had a piece of candy. We take for granted so many things! We cooked the kids breakfast and they were SO excited! I have never gotten that excited for breakfast. It made me think about so many things that are a privilege that not everyone has. I had no idea how much those kids would have an effect on me. They made me look at certain things so much differently, I now know that what I have is something that not everyone has. I've always known that, but to see is a completely different experience.



We went there with a mission of making disciples. We also went there to build a house for a guy named Joseph. He was living in tin put together. Their definition of poverty and ours are completely different. Yes, we have poverty, people struggle everywhere. Almost all the houses in this area look similar to this. They live in poverty, whereas we have people here and there that are living like this here. What we built was a simple house, it had one room with a bed, and he had a couple housewarming things. But it had a roof that won't fall over him. That's a privilege many of us take for granted.



The schools were one of my favorite places to be! I think it's crazy that they don't have half of the resources we do, but they do more than we have ever done. They relate everything back to God and I think that's amazing. They recite verses every morning, and they know them too! I wish our schools had that. I'm now trying to do more in my own school. All thanks to them.



CAMP BEAVERFORK

-SUMMER 2024-

JUNE/02/2024
- JUNE/07/2024

ENCOUNTER

GRADES 9-12
\$150/CAMPER

JUNE/09/2024
- JUNE/14/2024

IGNITE

GRADES 6-8
\$150/CAMPER

JUNE/16/2024
- JUNE/19/2024

SUBMERGE#1

GRADES 2-5
\$125/CAMPER

JUNE/19/2024
- JUNE/22/2024

SUBMERGE#2

GRADES 2-5
\$125/CAMPER

FOR MORE INFORMATION

ARSTUDENTMIN.ORG/SUMMERCAMPS

Home With the Lord

Loy Lee Counts made his heavenly journey on Thursday, February 8, 2024 in Fayetteville, Arkansas. He was born on August 7, 1938, at Drakes Creek in Madison County, Arkansas, the son of John and Myrtha (Davis) Counts.

He was preceded in death by his loving wife, Kay Counts in 2014. He was also preceded in death by his parents, grandson Ricky (Bud) Roth, a sister, Betty Counts, and brothers Carl, Curt, Ken, and Bill Counts. He is survived by sisters, Laverne Hiblong and Linda Masters; a brother Bob Counts; children Norma (Marty) Price, Loy (Becky) Counts, and Danny (Tina) Counts. He was blessed with six grandchildren: Amy (Gary) Ezell, Casey (Dillon) Johnson, Christy (James) Isaac, Tanner (Isabella) Counts, Phillip Price, and Erik (Kaitlynn) Price. He also had ten great-grandchildren, many nieces and nephews, and a host of brothers and sisters in Christ.



8,

Loy served in the medical field for the army in Germany from 1961-1964. When he returned to the states, he was called into service for God. He pastored many churches in NW Arkansas, his latest being the Cobaugh Church in Hindsville. Loy had a passion for preaching and teaching God's word, and was blessed with an amazing memory of Scripture. He introduced many people to Christ, and will be lovingly remembered by both immediate family, and Christian brother and sisters.

Honoring Johnie Delbert Hughes

Johnie Delbert Hughes entered this world on August 14, 1932, after the Great Depression and before World War II. He was born to Thomas and Elsie (Watkins) Hughes in a small Arkansas town named Joy. Delbert, as we all knew him, was about Duty. He served in the Army in Colorado and received a Good Conduct Medal during the Korean Conflict. He married his love, Ruby (Gray) Hughes in 1953, a devoted union that lasted over 70 years.

After serving his country, Delbert served his family and community. In December 1957, he became a Deacon at his home church, First Free Will Baptist Church of North Little Rock where he faithfully served his whole life. He taught the Junior Boys Sunday School classes and later the Trailblazer's Adult Class. In 1961 he began serving as a Fireman for the North Little Rock Fire Department. He loved his fireman buddies. Lori, his daughter, remembers he joined the Rescue Squad and saved a woman from the river when she jumped off a bridge. He served for over 34 years and retired as Captain. After retirement, much of his life was spent doing odd jobs for the elderly and maintaining his church. If there was a job to do, Delbert did it, lovingly and without hesitation.



Delbert loved the Razorbacks, attending football games in Little Rock and Fayetteville. He and Ruby spent many years supporting the Hogs with fellow church members, Wendell & Flo Leckbee, and John & Lou Williams. Delbert was also an avid fisherman, enjoying time with his Pastor and friend, Ben Scott, then in later years, Bill Book. One time, out in a boat with his soon to be son-in-law David, Delbert ran up over a stump and threw him over the top of the boat. David was wearing heavy overalls and boots. He had almost given up until he saw a hand. He wasn't sure who's hand it was, God's or Delbert's, but he reached for it. Thankfully it was Delbert who reeled him back into the boat. Throughout his life, Delbert was a Christian, husband, father, grand and great grandfather, sportsman, fireman and serviceman. Above all, he was called to be a Fisher of Men.

Delbert passed into Glory on December 8, 2023. He was preceded in death by his parents, sister Geneva Strayhorn, and brothers Danny, Bill, Wayne, Michael, Glenn, and Clyde Hughes; infant daughter Debra Jean Hughes, infant grandson Jeremy David Hudman, and son in law David Hudman.

Those left to cherish his memory are his wife Ruby, son Ted and daughter Lori; Grandchildren Daniel (Becca) Hudman, Jason (Justine) Hudman, Adam Hughes, and Jacob (Candace) Hudman; five great grandchildren; sister Lilly Faye McCallister, Laverne Davis, brother Paul Hughes, and a host of nieces nephews and friends.

Cooperative Receipts -- February & March 2024

Allen Chapel	3,033.00	Generations Church		Welcome Home	399.44
Arbor Grove	484.87	Grace Fellowship		West Ridge	
Ballews Chapel		Harmony, Russellville	474.30	Willoughby	42.00
Bethlehem		Harmony, Warren	3,862.05	Woodlawn	
Blackland Chapel		Hector	25.00	Yorktown	422.37
Calvary	1,284.00	Hillview	493.50		
Cavanaugh	21,881.61	Kenner Chapel			
Center Point, Vilonia	776.88	Lake Hills	1,009.99	Individual Giving:	
Centerville	325.00	Lodi		David Williams	550.00
Central, Central City	632.47	Macedonia, Mt. Pleasant		Glenwood	389.50
Chapel Lane	209.87	Macedonia, New Edinburg	630.00		
Clifty Chapel		Maple			
Connect Church	1,207.11	Mt. Bethel	3,055.60		
Corbin Ferry		Mt. Harmony, Saffell	1,710.00		
Corley	280.50	Mt. Olivet		Total Receipts	\$100,085.38
Crossroads, Jacksonville	1,797.22	Mt. Pleasant, Hamburg	10.50		
Daisy		Mt. Vernon	400.00		
Danville	200.00	Mt. View, Charleston			
Eighty-Eight, Rudy		New Bethel	200.00		
Enterprise		New Sulphur	56.75		
Fairview, Warren	70.00	Oak Grove, Atkins	493.60		
Faith, Jonesboro	1,835.00	Oak Grove, Wilmar			
Faith, Warren	93.39	Old Reyno	1,013.00		
First Benton		Oliver Springs			
First Cave City	50.00	Ozark	1,083.69		
First Charleston	1,499.94	Phillips Chapel	1,666.66		
First Conway		Plainview	445.83		
First Crossett	700.00	Pleasant Valley	2,120.99		
First Dardanelle	141.00	Ranger	344.34		
First Fort Smith		Riverdale			
First Greenwood	2,069.19	Rolling Oaks	1,200.00		
First Hot Springs	45.00	Rose Hill	700.00		
First Jonesboro		Sharon	455.60		
First Malvern		Slaty Crossing	600.00		
First Mt. Home	1,199.70	South Heights	622.00		
First Mulberry		South Side	392.58		
First North Little Rock	1,327.30	Spring Hill	70.00		
First Pocahontas	2,481.60	St. Joe	1,688.00		
First Star City	5,490.80	Sutton	7,359.04		
First Tuckerman	2,243.20	Union Grove	4,297.04		
First Walnut Ridge	4,740.87	United	1,400.07		
First Warren	2,304.40	Upper Spring Creek	125.75		
Friendship	842.67	Weavers Chapel	1,029.60		

Arkansas FWB Women's Ministry Scholarship

Scholarship Information

Arkansas FWB Women's Ministry provides educational scholarships as part of its ongoing mission: helping Free Will Baptist women discover and utilize their God-designed roles for communicating the Gospel.

Eligibility

1. Must be a Female student.
2. Must be an active member of a Free Will Baptist Church in good standing with the Arkansas State Association.
3. Must be enrolled in a Free Will Baptist College.
4. Must be considered a full-time student with a minimum of 12 hours per semester.
5. Must maintain a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 or above.
6. Must submit a completed application and all required documentation by the specified deadline. (June 21, 2024)

Application Process

1. Submit the application
2. Provide a written statement of your testimony and conversion experience
3. Provide three letters of recommendation-one must be from your pastor or youth pastor (no family). Letters must be mailed directly to the address below.
4. Submit a statement of financial need
5. Provide verification of enrollment in a Free Will Baptist College (acceptance letter)
6. Provide verification of GPA (copy of current transcript)

Awards

1. The scholarship amount will be dependent on available funds, and awarded ½ Fall Semester and ½ Spring Semester.
2. The scholarship award will be payable to the educational institution.
3. The scholarship award will be for one year and the recipient must re-apply for each year of eligibility.

Application Deadline: June 21, 2024

Mail required forms to Arkansas FWB, AWM Scholarship, P O Box 2110, Conway, AR 72033

Arkansas FWB Women's Ministry Scholarship Application

Personal Information

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

Church Membership

Church Name _____
Church Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
District Association _____
Pastor's Name _____ Phone (____) _____

Education

Year Graduated from High School _____ GPA _____

College

Name of FWB College you plan to attend/are attending _____
Semesters Attending: _____ Fall _____ Year _____ Spring _____ Year
Degree/ Major _____
Last Semester GPA (College) _____
Classification (circle one): Freshman Sophomore Junior Senior

Please list names of those providing letters of recommendation (one must be a pastoral reference)

Name _____ Name _____
Name _____ (Pastor or Youth Pastor)

Agreement

I attest and affirm that the information I have provided in this document is absolutely true and correct. I also verify that I meet all required qualifications to apply for this scholarship.

Signature Printed Name Date

This application, statement of your testimony and conversion experience, three letters of recommendation (sent directly), statement of financial need, verification of enrollment in a FWB College, and verification of GPA must be received no later than June 21, 2024

Mail required forms to Arkansas FWB, AWM Scholarship, P O Box 2110, Conway, AR 72033.

Arkansas
Free Will Baptists
PO Box 2110
Conway, AR 72033
(501) 329-8193

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