



## **MESSANGER UPDATE**

**May 5, 2026**

***“Called to Love, Sent to Serve***

**THE MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS**

[Mississippi State Association of Free Will Baptists \(msfwb.org\)](http://msfwb.org)

[msafwb22@gmail.com](mailto:msafwb22@gmail.com) text at (662)213-0231



**Newlife FWB Pastor Johnny Cook has experience physical problems recently. He has had a measured improvement but is still dealing with health issues.**

**First FWB – Booneville Pastor Steve Nichols was hospitalized with urinary tract complications. He was scheduled to be released today and will undergo more testing later.**

**Little Brown FWB Pastor Leonard Ball – recovery from procedure done today.**

### **CROSSWALK – NEW ALBANY**



Greetings to you from your state mission work at Crosswalk Free Will Baptist Church in New Albany, MS.

Our Compassion In Action Ministry went very well this past Saturday. Thirteen folks from Crosswalk Church went out in three vehicles to local neighborhoods. We distributed around three hundred door hangers and invitation cards for our Family/Friend Day set for May 17th. Dr. Gerald Gann will be our guest speaker at 9:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. There will be a time of fellowship and food at 10:30 a.m.

This Sunday, May 10th, will be our Mother’s Day celebration at 11:00 a.m. We will have a gift for all our moms and daughters. There will be Jack’s biscuits and Scarlet’s donuts for everyone at 10:30 a.m.

If you do not have a church home, we invite you to worship with us. Service times Sunday mornings are Crosswalk Groups at 9:45 a.m.; Coffee & Donut Fellowship at 10:30 a.m.; and Morning Worship at 11:00 a.m. Sunday evenings start at 5:00 p.m., and Wednesday Wake Up at 7:00 p.m.

Thank you for your continuing prayers and support of Mississippi Missions! Together, we are making a difference. *Pastor Thomas and Lisa Loyd*

**HISPANIC MINISTRY- Rick Bowling**



We went to the Alabama State meeting last week and really received a blessing! Jamie Lancaster gave the IM report and reported that the church that Linda and I started in Malvin Norte was celebrating their 40th anniversary ! They are having to go to two services on Sunday's because they don't have room to accommodate the people who come. That was last Sunday morning service was their anniversary! They have also started another mission church in the area and that work is having 15 to 20 in attendance. I just wanted to remind you what God has done through you in your support! I hope you join with Linda and myself to continue to pray for this work that they would turn Uruguay to Jesus Christ!! Thanks again for your faithfulness!!

**MASTER'S MEN MEETING**

May 11th @ 7:00 PM  
Hosted by Springdale FWB



*A meal will be served!*



**Bethel Free Will Baptist Church**  
**Homecoming & Memorial Service**  
**May 24, 2026**

All are invited to come join us as we recognize our Church beginnings, Founding Families, and Past and present Service Members

Sunday School 10:00 a.m.  
Recognition & Worship Service  
Bro. Norman Nowell  
11:00 a.m.

LUNCH WILL BE SERVED IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL - WITH A SHORT SERVICE AFTER LUNCH





**SOUTH MS YOUTH CAMP**

South MS Youth Camp, Junior Camp is June 7th -12th Bro. Jarrod West will be the Director. Teen Camp is Directed by Brother Jarrod Vanderslice June 14th - 19th, Bro Logan Sword will be the Evangelist.

Everyone is invited to come join us in an old-fashioned camp meeting for both weeks. **Preregistration for both weeks needs to be turned in by May 14th.** For registration information call Josh West @ 601-410-1762, for Jr camp, or Jarrod Vanderslice @ 918-623-6888



**Funds can be sent through MTW or directly to**  
 Morganwood Youth Camp  
 385 COUNTY ROAD  
 1371  
 Booneville, MS 38829  
 If you have any questions about Morganwood, feel free to call @ 209-380-0505.  
 Yours in His Service,  
**RYAN SMITH**  
 Camp Administrator



**The ladies in South MS met at the Bethel FWB church on Saturday, May 2 , for a time of worship and fellowship. The meeting began with prayer and a devotion from Christy Garner, followed by a wonderful brunch of pastries, casseroles, and fruit trays.**

**We also played a couple of games that were fun and motivating. Amber Vanderslice and Hannah Goucher were the winners.**

**The main service began with special music by Macy Garner, who did an outstanding job of bringing us into an attitude of gratitude and worship of our Lord Jesus. She was followed by Madelyn Walley, who so aptly and devotedly challenged us to “weed our lives of hindrances in order to bloom and grow in Christ” with her message entitled “Prune to Bloom”.**

**We invite all ladies to meet with us again in September at Buckatunna FWB Church for another time of fellowship and worship. We will announce the date soon!**

Until then, serve the Lord with gladness!

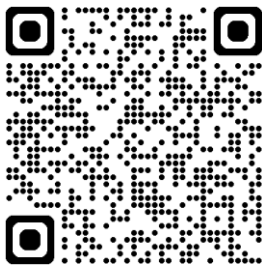
Sherry Reynolds



Kristy Johnson

Mother's Day is more than just flowers and candy. It's about stories, experiences, and moments that bring families together. In the latest Better Together podcast, Eddie Moody interviews Kristi Johnson to reflect on motherhood, with both its chaotic times and its beautiful moments, and how the church can come alongside moms with care, encouragement, and practical support.

Kristi says, "Take time to tell your mother what she means to you, if she is still living. And if she's gone, keep her legacy alive by telling your children about how her voice lives on through them."



For information about registration for the National Convention, use the code.

Mississippi FWB  
**Ministers & Wives  
 RETREAT 2026**  
 September 10<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>  
 Hyatt Place  
 Ridgeland, MS



David & Kathy Crowe

Early Registration Rate by JUNE 30<sup>th</sup>  
**\$290 per room**  
 Registration Rate by August 15<sup>th</sup>  
**\$325 per room**

Rate includes room, breakfast, conference, and dinner on Thursday

EASY ONLINE REGISTRATION 

Enjoy a time of refreshing as we  
 Focus on Encouragement and  
 Fellowship

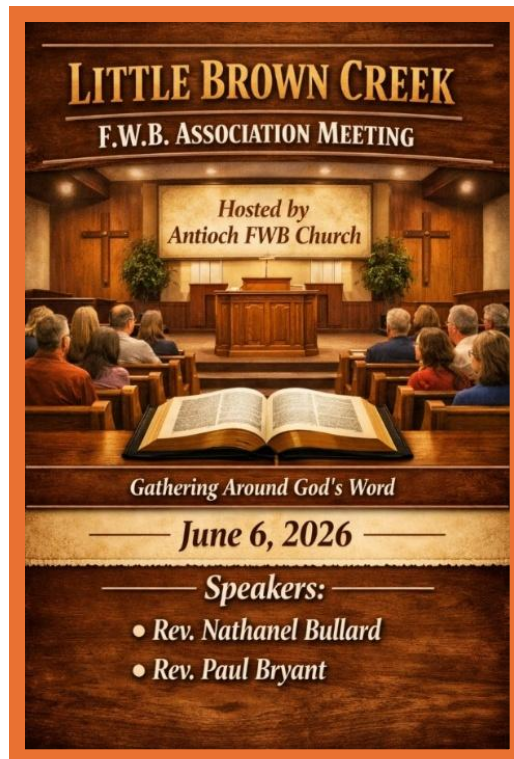
Schedule	
Thursday	
Check in	3pm
Session 1	6pm
Dinner Together	7:45pm
Friday	
Session 2	9am
Session 3	10:30am
Free time	
Saturday	
Session 4	9am

I strongly recommend that every Mississippi Free Will Baptist Church send your pastor and his wife to the 2026 Pastor and Wives Retreat, September 10–12, 2026. Few opportunities provide this kind of focused time for spiritual renewal, encouragement, and strengthening the partnership that supports your church's ministry week after week.

At \$295, this is a wise stewardship decision and a practical way to care for those who care for you. Your church should send your pastor and his wife—because when you invest in their health and longevity, you invest in the stability, unity, and effectiveness of your entire congregation. It truly may be the best \$295 your church has ever spent.

Please make plans now to include this retreat in your 2026 church budget and register early so your pastor and wife can attend.

Pastor Aaron Baldrige, D. Min.  
First Free Will Baptist Church  
2412 Upper Dr.  
Pearl, MS 39208 601-939-3447 Office 601-966-8709 Cell



1. **Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church** (South MS Association) 2626 Union Road Richton, MS 39476 Contact Justin Walley 803 Umpqua Road Richton MS 39476 (601) 525-6357
2. **Bethlehem Free Will Baptist Church** - Pontotoc, MS, looking for bi-vocational Youth Pastor- Contact Pastor Mike Ratliff @ 662-871-8791
3. **Bethel Free Will Baptist Church** 200 Freewill Church Rd, Richton, MS 39476 (South Mississippi FWB Association) Contact: Brother Joel Garner 62 Phillips Nursery Rd. Richton, MS 39476 Ph. 601 964-0049
4. **Antioch Free Will Baptist Church** (Little Brown Creek Association) – Brother Russell Clouse is serving as interim Pastor.

## NAFWB News

Stay up-to-date on happenings throughout the Free Will Baptist denomination with this week's [NAFWB News](#). Read below the exciting things going on in our national ministries:



### Convention Seeks College Students for Internship

The application deadline has been extended for the [2026 Convention Internship Program](#). The internship is open to *any* college student in the denomination. (Applicants do not have to attend a Free Will Baptist college). The program takes place during the Free Will Baptist National Convention July 19-22 in Columbus, Ohio

Students selected for the program will get a unique, behind-the-scenes look at the convention, including its inner workings, organizational structure, and management. Interns are given an up close, personal look behind the scenes of the [National Convention](#) as they participate in various duties throughout the week. Areas of responsibility include exhibit hall management, registration, media, production, stage management, and more.

Students will receive on-the-job training plus room and board during their stay in Columbus July 16-23. Interns are responsible for transportation to and from the convention. Students will report to Columbus Thursday, July 16, and will be free to leave Thursday morning, July 23.

[Apply Online](#)

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### [Church and Pastor Information | Mississippi State Association of Free Will Baptists](#)

Some CORRECTIONS are being processed since corrected information was shared at the meeting last week.



**We have been making updates on our church information on our website. PLEASE CLICK ON THE ABOVE LINK AND CHECK THE INFORMATION – SEND CORRECTIONS TO**



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