

W.O.N.
White Oak Newsletter
White Oak Hill
Free Will Baptist Church



Issue #94
February 23, 2022
252-235-3868



Church Attendance

February 16th

Wednesday Night 67

February 20th

Sunday School 78

Sunday Worship 144

HOPE IS HERE

We wait in hope for the Lord;
He is our help and our shield.
Psalm 33:20

From
Pastor Hal



This past Monday evening Cindy and I had the privilege of visiting the Wildwood FWB Church in Wilson. They are hosting a mission revival this week. Rev. Ange is doing a wonderful job at this dear church. The preacher speaking on Monday was a missionary that our church has supported for a very long time. His name is Hemant Patel. Brother Patel will be with us in March. He has planted churches in India and led many people to Christ. During his message, Bro. Hemant spoke of a lady who was beside the Ganges River. This river is sacred in the eyes of many people in India. She was holding a baby in her arms while her other son (a toddler) was running around her. Another missionary happened to pass that way and knew why the lady was by the river. He walked up to her and tried to talk her out of what she had planned. With tears running down her cheeks, she refused to listen, and the missionary walked to town. It wasn't much later that he saw the woman coming into town with just one child. The baby the lady was holding was a cripple. The healthy, young boy who was running around her legs wasn't there. She had sacrificed him to the river, to her god. When the missionary approached the woman, he asked why she had given her healthy son to god. Why didn't she give the cripple? The lady opened her eyes wide and responded, "Because we give our best to god. It is an honor to give our very best." How tragic! The sacrifice of a child for nothing. However, when the preacher gave the illustration during his message, it caused me to ponder. Am I giving God my best? The Lord will never ask us to throw our baby into a river, but He does ask us to give our best. He commands us to love Him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. Mark 12:30

As the world appears to be coming out of the pandemic, let me encourage you to give your best to the Lord. Corrie Ten Boom said, "the measure of life isn't its duration, but it's donation." Let's all donate wisely. Our God is worthy!



This past weekend was amazing. If you couldn't make it to the community outreach, there are new neighbor cards in the vestibule. Please take one and pray for the families who have recently moved into our neighborhood. Then, when it's convenient, pay them a visit inviting them to our wonderful church and our beautiful Savior.



Many of you were praying for our services this past Sunday. Thank you for the prayers! The morning service was wonderful. It's easy to see that the Millers love the Lord. That love for the Savior was evident as they sang for about 35 minutes. We apologize, but due to copyright laws, the church couldn't live stream the service. However, the church service will be back online this Sunday at 10:30. And last week's service was recorded. Please let the office know if you would like a copy of the CD.



We want to welcome our newest members to White Oak Hill FWB Church. Mickey and Sue Bisette joined the church this past Sunday. And Joseph Johnson also joined the church. We are thrilled to have them as a part of our church family. Ms. Sue was already serving the Lord by helping Ms. Judy Pitts on Monday clean the church library. Praise God!



Last week we started a Bible memorization challenge. How did you do? John 15:12 "This is my commandment, that ye love one another, as I have loved you" was our verse to memorize. I sincerely hope it wasn't too difficult. This week, our scripture to memorize is John 15:13 "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." The verse this week is a little more difficult, but I believe you can do it!!



The Hilltop FWB Church will host their annual Armor of God conference March 4-5. I will take the church van down for the Friday evening service. The van will leave at 4:30 p.m. We will stop and enjoy dinner prior to the service. Rev. Jake Potter and Rev. Christian Powell will be preaching this year. Please sign the sheet in the foyer if you would like to attend. We can register for the event at www.hilltopchurch/armor2022.



Between 15-20 people have registered for the upcoming paintball field trip this weekend. Initially, the teens were going to battle the college-age young people. But I believe we have some older folks who want to get in on the action. Please pray for the "young at heart." Pray they will come back in one piece and without losing too much self-esteem. Below is the information for the activity.

- The Date: February 26 (This Saturday)
- The Time: 10:15 a.m.-1:45p.m.
- The Cost: \$20.00 (Lunch is included)
- The Participants: The Youth and the young at heart



1. Mrs. Elaine Barnes is home. Hospice has been called in to assist the family. Please pray for the dear woman of God and her family.
2. Mrs. Pat Register still needs our prayers.
3. Please continue to pray for a youth pastor. We know God's timing is perfect, but I sure wish February was His time to bring someone to White Oak.
4. Let's pray for Shirley Dew who is struggling with her health and hasn't been able to make it to church.

The greatest tragedy in life is not unanswered prayer, but unoffered prayer.
F.B. Meyer

Love in Christ,

Rev. Hal W. Jones III

Pastor Hal

Galatians 2:20

FREE CHRISTIAN RESOURCES

Three Ways to Register at RightNowMedia

Link

This link is easy to access to the church's account:

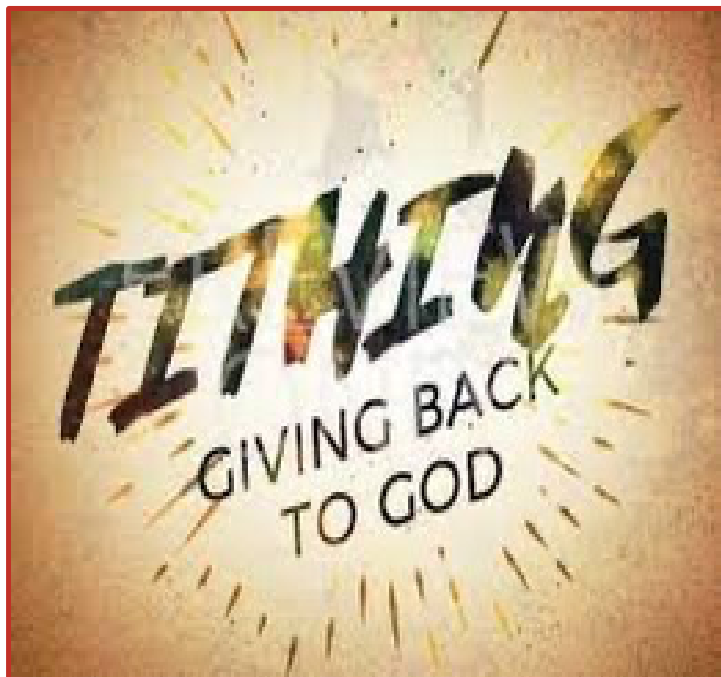
<https://app.rightnowmedia.org/join/WHITEOAKHILL>

Text Code

This text code is easy to access to the church's account: WHITEOAKHILL can be texted to 49775.

QR Code

This scannable code is easy to access to the church's account.



Schedule of Services

Sunday

In-Person

Sunday School at 9:30 AM

Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30 AM

On-Line

Sunday Morning Online Service at 10:30 AM

Sunday Evening Online Service Only at 6 PM

Wednesday

7 PM - Prayer, Praise & Bible Study

Engage Youth, Propel Kids & Nursery

WOH Services can be seen on either:

Facebook - Hal Jones page

White Oak Hill Free Will Baptist Church - Website

White Oak Hill Free Will Baptist Church YouTube

MISSIONS CORNER!

Please pray for these missionaries!

Family News

Free Will Baptist Family Ministries

Winter 2021-2022

Standing on the Front Line

We are blessed to be surrounded by true heroes – champions in our eyes. In this issue of Family News, we want to pay tribute to the front liners – our veterans, our caregivers, our educators, our mentors & our loyal supporters.

Written by youngest Inaugural poet in U.S. history, 22-year-old Amanda Gorman's poem titled 'Chorus of the Captains' and recited at Superbowl 55, captures our appreciation to all those that stand on the front lines of our ministry efforts.

"Let us walk with these warriors, charge on with these champions, and carry forth the call of our captains. We celebrate them by acting with courage and compassion, by doing what is right and just. For while we honor them today, it is they who every day honor us."

Still Standing



Jim McComas, CEO of Family Ministries

Recently we received a generous gift here at the ministry from Ron and Connie Whitaker from Nashville, Tennessee.

Although the gift was a blessing, I was even more touched by the heartfelt letter that Ron included. Brother Whitaker shared that he was sending the gift in honor and memory of his parents, Rev. Carson and Genia Whitaker. Ron shared that the church he grew up in, Scott Street Free Will Baptist in Cookeville, Tennessee, which

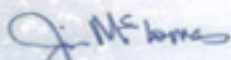
was founded and pastored by his dad, had a strong relationship with Free Will Baptist Family Ministries. The visits with our children, bus trips to our campus, and their family's friendship with our first director, Rev. and Mrs. J.L. Stanley, all made a lifelong impact on him—the reason he still supports our ministry so many years later.

What a thrill it was to be able to call brother Ron and thank him personally for his gift, but also to share with him the exciting things that are still going on in this ministry. What a thrill to know that we are still doing the work of caring for the most broken and vulnerable among us, decades later.

What a thrill to report that after hearing the dramatic testimony of an ex-convict whose life has been radically changed by Christ, FOURTEEN of the young men on our Greeneville, Tennessee campus recently gave their lives to Christ! PRAISE THE LORD that we are "still standing" where we've always been, still sharing, still ministering, and still reaching young people with the message of the Gospel!

Dear friend of this ministry, you have my personal commitment that this ministry is, and will continue to stay true to our mission statement until Jesus comes back, which is this: *"To serve and share Christ in order to strengthen and preserve families and provide a loving, caring and secure environment in which to live, work and grow in the Lord."*

In Christ,



Jim McComas
Executive Director

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

– 1 Corinthians 15:58 KJV



Standing On The Side Of Love

The Carson Family

Congratulations Carson Family! The chalkboard says it all! If you are in Tennessee and God is tugging at your heart, prayerfully consider fostering to adopt through Family Ministries **Foster Care**. Thank you to all our Foster Families for all you do!

During a recent staff meeting at "Maggie House", one of our **Arkansas Ministries** children's facilities, our staff members were asked to share the reasons that motivate them to work with our young people. The answers were so powerful we want to share their thoughts for two reasons: So that you can see very clearly that for many of our staff, this is more than a job but a mission and ministry for them. Also, so you can see how God's love can take negative events in a person's life and make something positive:



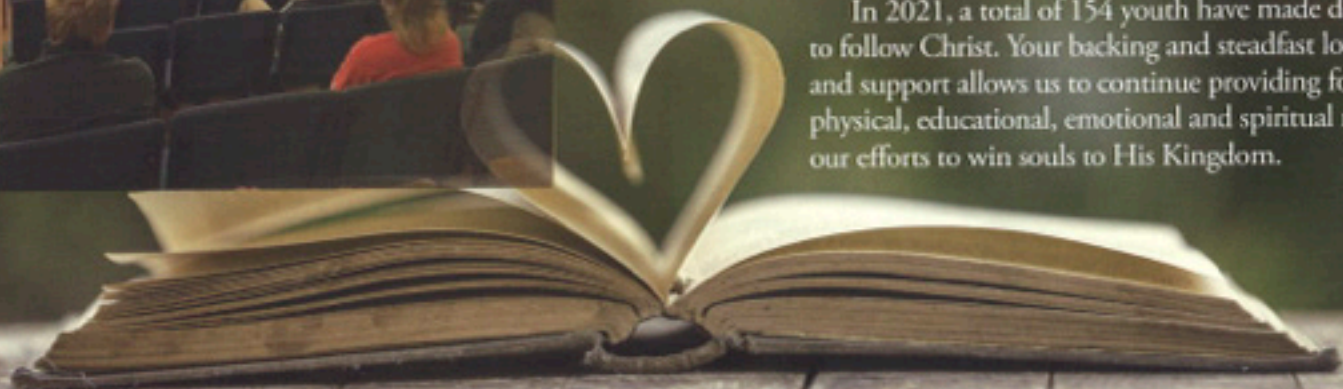
- I lost my daughter, she was a teacher and I would like to be able to help teach the kids a better way of life.
- I have been in the system so I can relate to the kids and what they are going through.
- I was on my own at the age of 14 and had all of my kids before the age of 17. I didn't have the guidance that I needed and that has made me want to give the kids the support that they need.
- I feel I have a purpose here at Maggie House.
- I want to make a difference and let the kids know that there are people who really care.
- I didn't have anyone to teach me when I was growing up and want to be able to teach them.
- I want to let the kids know that I am here for them and won't leave them. I went through a lot growing up such as physical and verbal abuse.
- I was adopted when I was 2 due to the physical and sexual abuse from my parents but my brothers and sisters went into the system and I feel that I have a purpose to be here with them.
- I enjoy working with the kids.



Standing on the Word

This is how our young men start their school day... with JESUS! Our teacher is sharing God's love through daily devotions with the boys in our **Tennessee Residential Care**.

In 2021, a total of 154 youth have made decisions to follow Christ. Your backing and steadfast love and support allows us to continue providing for the physical, educational, emotional and spiritual needs in our efforts to win souls to His Kingdom.



Standing In The Gap

By Definition: To expose oneself for the protection of something; to make defense against any assailing danger; to take the place of a fallen defender or supporter.



In celebration of Veteran's Day at the **Laurels Assisted Living**, as one veteran noted, "These taps were played on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in the year 2021 when we honored our fellow veterans."

Recognizing our Veterans at **Governor's Bend Assisted Living**, one of our own residents helped the activities director put a collage of pictures and memorabilia together. They talked about how times were during World War II, the "Erwin Nine", and more local history from that era.

Acknowledging her service in the U.S. Navy during World War II, Dolores Mielnicki, resident at **Family Ministries Assisted Living**, served in wartime radio communications, a job that required her to learn Morse code. Ms. Dee was recognized in one of our past newsletters when she celebrated her 100th birthday earlier this year, and thought it fitting to feature her again while we were paying tribute to our Veterans.

As we reflect on the sacrifice for our freedom, with tremendous gratefulness, we recognize all defenders of our great country!

Standing in Victory

Gratitude goes out to our Executive Director Jim McComas, Church Relations Coordinator Ken Winningham, and our field representatives, who travel countless miles to spread the word about Family Ministries. Your response and loyal giving has been such a blessing and with thanksgiving, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to all our faithful supporters - for the regular donations of churches and individuals to help sustain our ministry throughout the year, through the offerings to our special appeals for Mother's Day and Christmas, to your generous sponsorships toward our annual fundraisers that

include the: Jack Taylor Memorial Rally, Hope Center Gala, Arkansas Golf Tournament, Primitive Quartet & The Inspirations Benefit Singing. **THANK YOU** for being a willing vessel victorious in God.

21 If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.

2 Timothy 2:21 KJV

Standing on a Firm Foundation

Free Will Baptist Family Ministries recognized board member Rev. Wayne Bess at their November Board meeting and at the Tennessee FWB state meeting. Serving a total of 22 years, we deeply appreciate his heart for our ministry, his sacrifice and dedication to serve in this capacity for more than two decades. Wayne's insight, knowledge and commitment have helped provide a firm foundation as a trusted advisor in his leadership role. Wayne has been a true champion for Family Ministries and he will be sorely missed!



Sharing a photo together, L to R: Wayne Bess-Vice Chair, Noah Taylor-Chairman, Jim McComas-Executive Director

Standing on a Platform

A retirement reception was given in honor of Sharon Hodgens, marking 29 years of faithful service to Family Ministries. Sharon has been a beloved "momma and grandma" to countless ladies and their babies that the Hope Center has mentored to over the years. Her platform as a tireless advocate for the unborn and the strong relationships built with community leaders over the year has been invaluable. She has championed the dream of a maternity home into a reality with sights on a grand opening of Honeysuckle Studios in the coming days. Congratulations, Sharon, and best wishes as you transition into retirement!



Executive Director Jim McComas & wife Beth drop by retirement reception honoring Sharon Hodgens

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A FOSTER PARENT IN TENNESSEE? Foster parents open their hearts, as well as their homes, to children in need of love, support and encouragement. For more information, call 423.470.2300.

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