

# THE NAFWB NEWS

2017 FREE WILL BAPTIST NATIONAL CONVENTION

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## Vertical What?

Director Brandon Roysden explains the recent name change.

During the past year, convention staffers have heard one question again and again. **Why change the name of the National Youth Conference to Vertical Three?** Director Brandon Roysden, shares the history and reasoning behind the name:

**Our History.** The roots of the National Youth Conference can be traced back to the Free Will Baptist League, which held its first nationwide conference in 1948, in Nashville, Tennessee. The League and WNAC sponsored a banquet and youth rally at the 1962 National Convention. The newly organized Church Training Service (CTS) expanded League Sword Drill and Declamation competition in 1965, adding Bible Bowl and Tic-Tac-Toe. The “National Youth Conference” is first mentioned in *Contact* magazine in conjunction with the 1968 convention in Oklahoma City. Based on this record, the conference will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2018. The Music and Arts Festival began in 1972. The goal of all of these activities was to train young people in Christian service.

**Our Name.** Daniel 3 records the account of three young men who faced a trial of their faith. These young men were removed from their homes and the influence of their family and peers. In a hostile environment, they determined not to conform or to compromise. They chose to be faithful to God no matter the cost and trusted Him with their lives. These young men stood tall. **They were the Vertical Three.**

**Our Mission.** Much has changed over the years. The conference has grown to be far more than just competition. But the purpose has not changed. The goal has always been and will continue to be ministry training. The programs and activities of Vertical Three—worship services, training seminars, Truth & Peace Student Leadership Conference, Youth Evangelistic Team, Serve the City, Buck-A-Week, and the CTS Ministry Expo—are all geared to help young people discover their talents, develop their leadership skills, and dedicate their hearts for faithful service to God.

### Core Values:

1. The Bible is the Word of God.
2. No one is too young to be used by God.
3. Leadership training is valuable for every individual.
4. Standing for God sometimes means standing against culture.
5. We are to be involved in God’s global mission.
6. God ordained the family and the church for passing on faith and values to the next generation.
7. Leading is serving.

## Fresh Start in Louisville

Impact volunteers share their time to give a local congregation a fresh start.

Sunshine, mid-80s, and low humidity—perfect weather for Impact Louisville 2017! Fifty-five workers from ten churches and five states arrived at the convention a day early to gather at First Free Will Baptist Church, 15 minutes from downtown.

Volunteers bubbled with excitement as they shared Saturday with the small congregation that recently joined the church revitalization program through North American Ministries. And, the excitement showed in their efforts. In just under four hours, these hard workers pressure washed the brick, eaves, gutters, steeple, and sidewalks; trimmed the shrubs and refreshed the landscaping; cleaned church pews and walls in the sanctuary; removed years of storage from the attic; caulked around crown molding in the fellowship hall; and prepared the interior of church for painting.

In addition, volunteers grilled hot dogs, prepared food, made signs, set up tents, face-painted, and monitored inflatables for a neighborhood family fun day. Seventy-five visitors came to the carnival; the excitement on their faces was a great thing to see.

“I am just blown away,” Pastor Rodney Brazil exclaimed as he watched the beehive of activity around the church. “Last week, I told my congregation to come Saturday to see how much this denomination loves our church. But this has gone beyond all expectations.”

The enthusiasm from the workers equaled that of the pastor. Candi Cantrell, a volunteer from Illinois, said, “Impact is a great way of serving God, and you get to meet new people from differ-



Kentucky promotional secretary Joel Franks shows off his face-painting skills.

ent places. It’s also fun to see how much a big group can get done in one day. I always start out to be a blessing to others, but it always ends up being a blessing to me.” Candi, husband Stephen, and sons Josiah and Piper have taken part in six Impact outreach events, and they plan to continue.

Impact director Ken Akers bragged on volunteers: “We had a good number, great participation, hard workers, a ton of enthusiasm, and everyone left happy. Once again, Impact has been a blessing, not only to a local church, but also to participants. I encourage everyone to sign up for Impact next year, and see if it doesn’t make your entire convention experience better.”

Pastor’s wife Ashley Brazil could hardly speak through her emotion. “It was so amazing to see people come to work and support and love each other. This means a fresh start for our church, and we are so grateful.”

# Exhibit Hall Freebie-for-all

The Exhibit Hall opened Monday at 3:00 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom of the Galt House. Learn more about the latest ventures of national departments, browse great Christian resources, and do a little souvenir shopping. And, no exhibit experience would be complete without a bag full of fun and useful freebies, giveaways, and door prizes. Here are just a few of the items available:

- + Board of Retirement - stress hammers
- + Executive Office - a leather *Rejoice!* hymnal every hour; Modjeskas candy
- + FWB Family Ministries - frisbees, bubbles, and more
- + FWB Foundation - luggage tags, USB ports
- + Randall University - \$1,000 scholarship per day; blanket
- + KY State - personalized Louisville Slugger; gift basket; cups

## Serve the City

Formerly Reach That Guy, **Serve the City** offers individuals and groups the opportunity to dive into the Louisville community and leave a positive impact during our time here. Vertical Three Director Brandon Roysden said, "Not only do we believe **Serve The City** is a great opportunity to help the local community, but we believe it also impacts the lives of those who serve. For us, it is an important part of what we do."

More than a dozen opportunities are available throughout the week, from serving in a food kitchen to assembling and distributing CARE bags to the homeless of Louisville. If you are interested in being involved, visit the **Serve the City** booth just across from the registration desk on the second floor of the Galt House or you can view and sign up for opportunities online at [verticalthree.com](http://verticalthree.com).

## Scavengers?

Vertical Three and Randall House sponsor a scavenger hunt each summer in conjunction with their ENGAGE Seminar Series. All you have to do is attend at least five seminars, fill out the submission form in the Vertical Three Directory (page 71) complete with a sticker from that seminar, turn in the form to the Vertical Three Office before noon on Wednesday, and you can be eligible to win some great prizes.

## Guidelines Available

A new *CTS Guidelines* book is being released this week from Vertical Three and Randall House in conjunction with the launch of an online portal later this year. "We realize the need to make more of our material available digitally and to provide even more content and support to those participating in the CTS Program," said Director Brandon Roysden. *Guidelines* can be purchased at the Randall House exhibit. Sign up for updates regarding the online portal at [firebox.verticalthree.com](http://firebox.verticalthree.com).

# News, Updates & Announcements

**Convention Prayer Rally.** Convention attendees are encouraged to attend a prayer rally, Tuesday, 9:00 a.m. in the Archibald Ballroom of the Galt House Hotel (Rivue Tower). Executive Secretary Keith Burden will lead this time of praise and prayer, following a message from Dr. Barry Raper.

**Registration is open daily** from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., second floor of the Galt House Suite Tower.

**All Welch alumni are invited to sing** in the Alumni Choir during the Tuesday evening service. Rehearsal begins at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday in the KFC Yum! Center. Register and download music for "Lift High the Name of Jesus" at [welch.edu/alumni](http://welch.edu/alumni).

- + FWBIM - photo booth; leather coasters (from missionaries)
  - + NAM - ceramic coaster; USB charging port
  - + ONE Magazine - drawing for a Kentucky mandolin
  - + Plexus - gift basket (\$150 value) and more
  - + Randall House - free curriculum
  - + Rescue Global 1 - coffee from Thailand
  - + Southeastern FWB College - yo-yos, fidget spinners, and more
  - + Welch College - \$25 & \$50 Amazon gift cards; Go-Pro
  - + We Start Churches - MacBook Pro per day (18 or older); free book for pastors
  - + WNAC - photo booth; gift basket
- Again, this is not a complete list, so enjoy the hunt as you explore this year's exhibit freebie-for-all.

## Meet the Speakers

Arkansas native **Joel Franks** is the pastor of First FWB Church, in Glasgow, Kentucky, where he was ordained in 2000. In addition to pastoring First FWB, Franks has served as promotional secretary for the Kentucky State Association since June 2016 and as executive board member of the Kentucky Association since 2005. He also previously served as moderator for the Green River Association. Franks received a B.S. in Business Management from University of Alabama in 1997. He and his wife Melanie have two children: Jonathan and Makayla.

Alabama native **Barry Raper**, pastor of Bethel FWB Church in Chapmansboro, Tennessee, was ordained in 2002. After earning a B.S. in Pastoral Ministry from Welch College, Dr. Raper went on to earn a M.Div. in Christian Education from Southern Seminary. He also holds a D.Min. in Biblical Spirituality from Southern Seminary. He and his wife Amanda have five children: Hannah, Tre, Emma, Caroline, and Elijah.

## Nominees

**Scott Coghill** (FWB Foundation) has served as senior pastor of New Life FWB Church in New Bern, North Carolina, since 2003. Coghill additionally serves as treasurer for the North Carolina State Association. In addition to a Bachelor's degree in Bible and Pastoral Theology from Southeastern FWB College, Coghill holds a NC/AL Life Insurance and Securities License and is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Christian Education from Andersonville Theological Seminary.

**Jeremy Smith** (Media Commission) serves as director of media at First FWB Church in Washington, North Carolina. He is also a tech support technician at East Carolina University. He has held various IT and AV technician positions, and holds a CompTIA A+ certification in information technology. In addition to serving his local church, Smith also assists with media for the North Carolina State Association.

**Lost and Found.** Missing something? Visit registration.

**Signings.** Christopher Talbot will be available at the Welch College booth from 10:00 a.m. – 12 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, to sign copies of his most recent book, *Remodeling Youth Ministry: A Biblical Blueprint for Ministering to Students*, published by Welch College Press. Talbot is program coordinator of the Youth and Family Ministry (YFM) at Welch College and YFM pastor at Sylvan Park FWB Church.

**Picture This.** Pictures from the convention are updated online daily. Find and download your favorites shots: [www.nafwb.yerbyphotography.com](http://www.nafwb.yerbyphotography.com).