

Our Year Of Jubilee

**CELEBRATING
50 YEARS**

Stone Association of Free Will Baptist of Central Indiana

1960- 2010



Free Will Baptist Church Covenant

Having given ourselves to God, by faith in Christ, and adopted the Word of God as our rule of faith and practice, we now give ourselves to one another by the will of God in this solemn covenant.

We promise, by His grace, to love and obey Him in all things, to avoid all appearance of evil, to abstain from all sinful amusements and unholy conformity to the world, from all sanction of the use and sale of intoxicating beverages, and to "provide things honest in the sight of all men."

We agree faithfully to discharge our obligations in reference to the study of the Scriptures, secret prayer, family devotions, and social worship; and by self denial, faith, and good works endeavor to "grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

We will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together for church conferences, public worship, and the observance of the ordinances of the Gospel; nor fail to pay according to our ability for the support of the church, of its poor, and all its benevolent work.

We agree to accept Christian admonition and reproof with meekness, and to watch over one another in love, endeavoring to "keep the unity of the Spirit" in the bonds of peace, to be careful of one another's happiness and reputation, and seek to strengthen the weak, encourage the afflicted, admonish the erring, and as far as we are able, promote the success of the church and of the Gospel.

We will everywhere hold Christian principle sacred and Christian obligations and enterprises supreme; counting it our chief business in life to extend the influence of Christ in society, constantly praying and toiling that the kingdom of God may come, and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

To this end we agree to labor for the promotion of educational and denominational enterprises, the support of missions, the success of Sunday schools, and evangelistic efforts for the salvation of the world.

And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

INTRODUCTION

This booklet was prepared by request of *The Stone Association of the Free Will Baptist of Central Indiana*. It is intended to give light and emphasis to better understand our past 50 year history and our purpose is to preserve at least a portion of it. The text is designed to tell the story as it happened and to provide documentation for future research. Some information relating to our Churches and other areas where taken as they appeared in the Associations' Minutes.

Many persons have been very helpful in furnishing information helping to make up this book. I thank each one for their effort and time spent in gathering data to complete this work. It is hoped that this book may fulfill the purpose intended.

Gregory K. McCarty
Indianapolis, Indiana

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | page |
|---|------|
| Theme: Our Year of Jubilee | |
| • 50 th Session | 4 |
| Early History of the Stone Association of Free Will Baptist | |
| • The Free Will Baptist Movement | 10 |
| • Boyd on the Christian Baptist | 11 |
| • The Stone Association of Indiana | 12 |
| • Formation of the Association | 14 |
| The Beginning of our Jubilee Era | |
| • Minutes of the 1 st Annual Session | 15 |
| Progress, Growth and Our Present Association | |
| • List of Churches from the beginning to Present | 20 |
| • Church Histories | 21 |
| • Ministers | 36 |
| • List of Ministers from the beginning to Present | 37 |
| • Deacons | 40 |
| • Youth for Christ | 41 |
| • List of Annual Session from beginning to Present | 41 |
| The Future | |
| • Remember the Days of Old | 43 |

THEME: OUR YEAR OF JUBILEE

- **50th Session**

(for more details of this session please see Minutes of the 50th Session)

STONE ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTIST OF CENTRAL INDIANA

VICTORY FWB CHURCH MARION, INDIANA

OCTOBER 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 2009

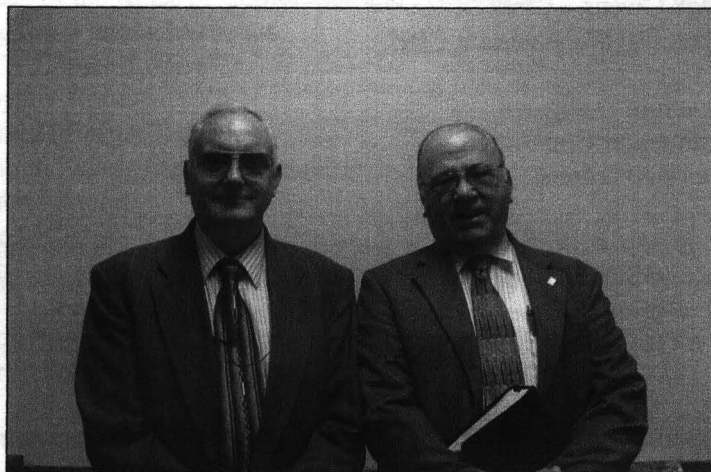
This year marks our 50th Annual Session and will feature a brief history of where we have come in these last 49 years.

Our speakers to preach during this year's meeting are Rev. James Philips, and Rev. James O. McCowan, having a combine total of 105 years in the ministry. It will be a great honor to be in the presence of these seasoned men and to be seated in this Session. We trust you will be blessed by being here.

Rev. James Phillips will preach Thursday and Friday nights to the Association. He is one of the co-founders who help organize the Stone Association in 1960 and was the first Clerk to serve this Association. For many years he was on the Presbytery and served as Moderator in 1968. Rev. Phillips has pastored two of our churches, Mt. Carmel FWB, and First Dunkirk FWB. Currently he is the Pastor of Brotherton FWB Church in Tennessee.

Rev. James O. McCowan will preach in the Saturday morning session of this Association. He is one of the co-founders who help organize the Stone Association in 1960. Rev. McCowan is the current Moderator of this Association and has been elected a total of 17 times to serve as Moderator. For many years he has served on the Presbytery

and has been active in the Association's work. Has pastored three of our Churches, First Muncie FWB, Burlington Dr. FWB, and currently is the pastor of Mt. Olive FWB for 19 years,



Right: Rev. James Phillips – Left: Rev. James O. McCowan

THURSDAY NIGHT OCTOBER 22, 2009

We met at the **Victory Free Will Baptist Church** in Marion, Indiana for our 50th Annual Association. Rev. Paul Masters, our Fellowship Chairman, opened up our service. We were led in song, and went to prayer before electing a new Fellowship Chairman. After prayer the floor was opened for nominations, and Rev. Paul Masters was re-elected for the coming year.

Sister Gina Willard provided the special singing during the Worship Service, and Rev. James Philips brought the evening message. Good message! We were dismissed in prayer until Friday night.

FRIDAY NIGHT OCTOBER 23, 2009

The 50th Annual Session of **The Stone Association of Free Will Baptist of Central Indiana**, was called to order by the Moderator, Rev. James O. McCowan. Opening Hymns where sung, "Jesus Loves Me" and "Amazing Grace" led by Rev. Mark Sluss. The delegates were called to order and seated. Our Moderator, Rev. James O. McCowan, read scripture from I Corinthians 1: 1-7.

The floor was opened for the election of new officers. Officers elected.

Rev. James O. McCowan – Moderator

Rev. Joe Roysden – Assistant Moderator

Rev. Max Owens – Clerk

Bro. Scott Davis – Assistant Clerk

Enrollment of Delegates

Appointment of Committees

Presbytery Appointed

Motion carried to adjourn for worship service. The Rejoice Singers from Mt. Olive came and sang for us, and followed by Rev. James Philips to bring the evening message. He preached from, John 3: 14-15, "The Good News of the Gospel".

SATURDAY MORNING OCTOBER 24, 2009

Meeting called to order by the Moderator, Rev. James O. McCowan. We opened with congregational singing "Glad Day", which was led by Rev. Mark Sluss, followed by prayer and led by Rev. Bill Hollars. After prayer the Moderator read from Galatians 5: 1-7. The delegates were seated at this time.



Saturday Morning Session

Order of Business:

Roll Call of Delegates

Reading of the Rules of Conference and Association

Recognize Visiting Ministers

Call for Church Letters

Presbytery Report

Licensed Minister Report

Traveling Evangelist Report and Election

Financial Report

Trustee Elected

Youth Committee Report and Appointment

Home Missions Board Report And Election

Church Informational Committee Report and Appointment

Other Reports

Motion carried to dismiss for worship service, and receive an offering for the Free Will Baptist Family Ministers. Rev. Mark Sluss led us in song, "Standing on the Promises". Sister Kim Fox, Of East 38th Street FWB Church, provided the singing for our morning service. Rev. James O. McCowan brought a challenging message from II Timothy 4: 1-5, 17 entitled "The Lord Stood with Me". We were then dismissed until our afternoon session.

At this time our Assistant Moderator, Rev. Joe Roysden presented Rev. James O. McCowan with a plaque acknowledging and thanking Rev. McCowan for his part in the formation of the Stone Association of Free Will Baptist of Central Indiana



Rev. McCowan receiving plaque

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

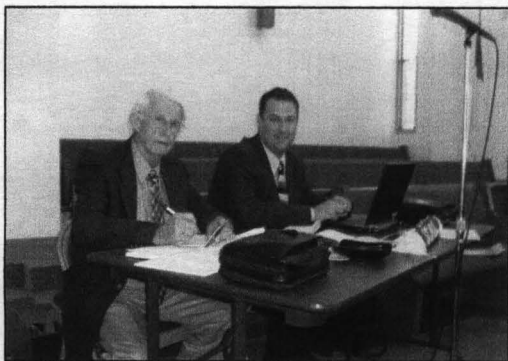
We reassembled at 1:15 PM. We sang "O Say, But I'm Glad" and had prayer, led by Rev. Paul Masters. Scripture was then read from Psalms 133 and we were called to order by the Moderator, Rev. McCowan.

Order of Business: (for more detail see Minutes of the 50th Session)

Roll call of Delegates
Committee Reports
Report on Finance
Report on Obituaries
Old and New Business
Roll Call of Ministers
Invitation for Office of Elder
Invitation for New Churches
Appointment of next meeting place

A motion was made to for the 51st Session to go to the Mt Olive Free Will Baptist Church in Muncie, Indiana on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday before the 4th Sunday in October 2010. (Oct. 21, 22, 23, 2010) Motion made to dismiss from the 50th Annual Session, motion carried. The meeting dismissed we went into worship. The singing started with Reba Evans from Valley Grove FWB Church followed by the Sluss Family from Victory FWB Church. Rev. Steve Palmer brought the final message from Psalms 133 as his text. Good Message!

Meeting Closed.



Left to Right: Bro. Max Owens Clerk - Bro. Scott Davis Asst. Clerk

Group of Ministers at close of Meeting



Seated- Rev. Mark Sluss: **Row 1-** Rev. James Sluss, Rev. Marion Donathon, Rev. Max Owens; Rev. Gene Holliday, Rev. James O. McCowan, Rev. Paul Masters **Row 2 –** Rev. Jim Hamm, Rev. Greg McCarty; **Row 3 –** Rev. Joe Roysden, Rev. Jerry Miller, Rev. Bill Hollars

Group of Deacons at the close of the Meeting



Left to Right: Bro. Scott Davis, Bro. Joe Vaughn, Bro. Charles Crabtree, Bro. Clyde Hinds, Bro. Forrest Hicks, Bro. Randall Price

EARLY HISTORY OF THE STONE ASSOCIATION

• The Free Will Baptist Movement

The rise of the Free Will Baptist in America can be traced to the influence of Baptist of Arminian persuasion who settled in the colonies from England.

The denomination sprang up on two fronts at almost the same time. The southern line, or Palmer movement, traces its beginnings to the year 1727 when one Paul Palmer organized a church in Chowan, North Carolina. Palmer had previously ministered in New Jersey and Maryland, having been baptized in a congregation which moved from Wales to a tract on the Delaware River in northern Pennsylvania.

The northern line, or Randall movement, had its beginning with a congregation organized by Benjamin Randall June 30, 1780, in New Durham, New Hampshire. Both lines of Free Will Baptist taught the doctrines of free grace, free salvation, and free will, although from the first there was no organizational connection between them.

The northern line expanded more rapidly in the beginning and extended its outreach into the West and Southwest. In 1910- 1911 this body of Free Will Baptist merged with the Northern Baptist denomination, taking along more than half of its 1,100 churches and all denominational property, including several major colleges. On December 28, 1916, at Pattonsburg, Missouri, representatives of remnants churches in the Randall movement reorganized into the Cooperative General Association of Free Will Baptist.

Free Will Baptist in the southeastern United States, having descended from the Palmer foundation, had often manifested fraternal relationships with Free Will Baptist of the Randall movement in the north and west, but the slavery question and the Civil War prevented formal union between them. The churches in the southern line were organized into various associations and conferences from the beginning, and had finally organized into a General Conference by 1921. These congregations were not affected by the merger of the northern movement with the Northern Baptist.

- **Boyd on the Christian Baptist:**

(The following article has been referenced from the web site of the Original Stone Association of Free Will Baptist)

The following history was written by the late Judge Ernest Huston Boyd Sr., as part of a series of historical articles in the Putnam County Herald. It was published November 19, 1953. The articles were compiled by Christine Spivey Jones into a book called Nuggets of Putnam County History. Some of the facts in this article may not be exact, but it does present a short history our association that is corroborated by other historians and seem to be backed up in large part by the various records on hand. A note to help understanding: we were previously called Christian Baptist, not Freewill Christian Baptist or simply Free Will Baptist, as it is today.

The Christian Baptist Church

About the year 1850, a number of ministers and churches of the Caney Fork Baptist Association withdrew from that Association the result of doctrinal controversies. The leaders of this group were Elders Corder Stone, and his son Elder Thomas Stone .

Among the Putnam County Baptist congregations which so withdrew from the Caney Fork Association was the Caney Fork (Browns Mill) Baptist Church, the ministers and congregations so withdrawing do not seem, according to their minutes, to have organized themselves into an Association and independent denomination until after the close of the Civil War in 1865, when they did organize themselves into a new denomination and named it the Christian Baptist Church. From the best information obtainable, this denomination was organized and named at a meeting held for that purpose at the Caney Fork Baptist Church in the summer of 1865. At the same time and place, they organized the Stone Association of the Christian Baptist Church naming it in the honor of their leaders, Elders Corder Stone and son, Thomas Stone. The Christian Baptist Church grew rapidly in this section, taking over many of the then Baptist congregations in Putnam County and some of the adjoining counties, and organizing new congregations. The Stone Association soon included congregations located in Putnam, White,

Overton, Jackson, DeKalb, Cumberland, Van Buren, Rhea and Bledsoe counties. After 22 years, during which new congregations were organized and other Baptist congregations became affiliated with it, and the field of operations of the Stone Association were extended, the Stone Association of Christian Baptists was divided, in 1887, into the Eastern and Western Division, dating its beginning as an Association to its organization in 1887. The Western Division of the Stone Association of the Christian Baptist retained its independent denominational identity until 1897, when it united with the Free Will Baptist Denomination. Among the well known ministers of the Christian Baptist Church were Corder Stone, Nathan Judd, Thomas J. Clouse, Benjamin Clouse, M. Judd, W. S. Clouse, G. W. Pennington, G. B. Brown, Henry Johnson, and L. F. Smith, Joseph A. Moyers, J.W. Stone, E.W. Stone, W.B. Gentry, F.M. Flatt, W.N. Selby, D.E. Smith, J.L. Kinnaird, J.N. Cantrell, and J.L. Myers.

The ministers and numerous other Christian Baptist ministers, rendered many years of faithful, devoted and untiring service, preaching the gospel and conducting revivals throughout this section. They received very meager financial remuneration, but the good that they accomplished can never be computed until the day of the final accounting, and their memory will long be cherished.

• **The Stone Association in Indiana**

In the 1950's Free Will Baptist was not known to exist in the State of Indiana. An earlier movement did exist in the 1800's, but disbanded as Free Will Baptist and merged into the Northern Baptist in 1911.

As times were tuff in middle Tennessee area in the 1950's, the migration of families began to move North ward in order to find work and put food on the table. A group of God fearing Free Will Baptist from Tennessee settled in and around the Irondale area of Anderson, Indiana. Thus begins the history of modern day Free Will Baptist in East Central Indiana, and as its roots begin grow outward from Anderson, Indiana.

Having our faith of free will, free grace, and free salvation has its roots from the hills of middle Tennessee, originating in the **Eastern and Western Stone Association of the Free Will Christian Baptist Church of Christ**. Finding no Free Will Baptist churches in this area, a

group of believers saw the need to establish a place of worship. This Church started in the Irondale area of Anderson, IN. as a Free Will Baptist Church.

In early 1953 a group of believers started having services in the home of Brother J.C. and Sister Dorothy Henson. After a few weeks and the need for more room, services was moved to the home of Arie and Edna Henson's home. Here they organized a Sunday School and the first person to get saved in these services was Brother William Richard McCowan. Soon after this it was decided to find a building to worship in, the small gathering was soon located in a building at 1512 East 16th St. in the Irondale area of Anderson, Indiana in a house owned by Butler Short for \$25.00 a month.

On November 1, 1953 this gathering was organized as the Anderson Free Will Baptist Church. Rev. Hershell Phillips from Tennessee came to help in the organization of this church and served as Moderator in this service. The Church was organized with 13 members. They elected Rev. Talmadge Phillips as the first pastor and Rev. Bill Simmons as the assistant pastor. They proceed to elect Brothers P. A. Dixon and Thurman Key as Deacons of the church. William and Mary Sue McCowan were elected as clerk, treasurer and secretary. At the October 1954 session of the **Eastern Division of the Stone Association of the Free Will Christian Baptist Church of Christ**, the Anderson Free Will Baptist was received into fellowship with a membership of 31.

The Anderson Free Will Baptist Church can be given credit for the formation of many Churches in and around the Anderson, Indiana area and East Central Indiana. As this church began the grow, branches soon began to form, and the name was changed to the First Free Will Baptist Church of Anderson. During the formation of the **Stone Association of Freewill Baptist of Central Indiana**, First Anderson chose not to organize with this new association. At the October 1960 session of the **Eastern Division of the Stone Association of the Free Will Christian Baptist Church of Christ**, the Anderson Church was granted a letter to merge with the **Kosciusko County Conference of Free Will Baptist in the State of Indiana**.



Anderson Free Will Baptist Church

- **Formation of the Association**

God began to bless the work in and around Central Indiana, a good number of Free Will Baptist started to move here from Tennessee. From 1953 to 1960, four churches had been established and nine ordained ministers were living here. Going back home, as it was called in those days, to visit family and to attend conference meetings; it would cause a great burden to travel long distances. They had discovered that God had given them a new home with a new church family. It was decided to form a new Association in the State of Indiana. In the home of James O. McCowan a group of ministers set at the kitchen table and worked out the foundation, Bi-laws and operating procedures for a new Association. It was decided to have an Annual Session and to meet quarterly for Conference.

(the following comes from the record book of the Preachers and Deacons meeting)

At the first meeting (no date given) the preachers and deacons of Indiana met at the First Anderson FWB Church and Rev. Bill Simmons was elected Moderator of this meeting. Voted to organize the **Central Indiana Preacher and Deacon of Stone Association of Freewill Baptist.**

The second meeting, March 13, 1960 met at First Muncie and elected Rev. Gilbert Mata as Moderator. Voted at this meeting to have a revival at First Indianapolis Church starting April 7, 1960.

The third meeting, no date given, was held at First Indianapolis.

On September 11, 1960 met at Mt. Hope Church and Rev. Richard Cordell was elected Moderator. A motion made at this meeting to start a new association in Indiana as an independent body.

On October 2, 1960 met at First Muncie Church and elected Rev. Bill Simmons as Moderator. Voted at this meeting to organize the **Stone Association of Freewill Baptist of Central Indiana**, and to have to first annual meeting at First Indianapolis Church on October 21-22, 1960.

THE BEGINNING OF OUR JUBILEE ERA

• Minutes of the 1st Annual Session

(The following is transcription of the first minutes)

MINUTES

The First Annual Session of the Stone Association of the Freewill Baptist of Central Indiana met with the First Freewill Baptist Church in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 21, 22, 1960. The former Moderator Rev. Bill Simmons called the house to order. After singing and prayer,

proceeded to organize by electing, Rev. Bill Simmons, Moderator; Rev. James O. McCowan, Asst. Moderator; Rev. James W. Phillips, Clerk; Rev. Joseph B. Matheney, Asst. Clerk.

ROLL OF DELEGATES

After calling the roll of Churches the following delegates represented the following Churches.

1. First Church Indianapolis-John Payton, George Owens
2. First Church of Muncie-James Rosebomer, William Fitzgerald
3. Mt. Hope of Anderson-Elmer McCowan, Lyle Ledbetter

COMMITTEE ON DEVOTIONAL

Friday Night, Rev. Joseph B. Matheney

Saturday at 11:00 AM, Edward Hargis

Saturday at 7:00 PM, Rev. Bill Simmons

Rev. James W. Phillips, Chairman

Bro. Morgan Shepherd

Bro. Charlie Buchanan

APPOINTED COMMITTEES

Committee on Temperance: Joseph B. Matheney, Chairman; Bro. William Fitzgerald; Bro. Elmer McCowan

Committee on Sunday School: Rev. James O. McCowan, Chairman; Lyle Ledbetter; Bro. James Rosebomer.

Committee on Resolutions: Rev. James W. Phillips. Chairman; Bro. Ralph Burke; Bro. Charlie Buchanan.

Committee on Prayer Meetings: Bro. Morgan Shepherd, Chairman; Bro. William Fitzgerald, Bro. Lyle Ledbetter.

Presby was Appointed: Rev. James O. McCowan, Chairman; Rev. Bill Simmons, Rev. Joseph B. Matheney, Rev. James W. Phillips and Rev. Elmer Harris.

Motion to adjourn for preaching and to meet back at 10:00 AM on Saturday.

Rev. Joseph B. Matheney preached a wonderful message on Doctrine.

SATURDAY MORNING

Was called to order by singing "Won't It Be Wonderful There", "I'm Bound For That Kingdom". The Moderator read from the 6th Chapter of Galatians. Prayer was directed by Bro. Morgan Shepherd.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report On Temperance

We your committee on Temperance believe that alcohol is a dangerous habit forming beverage, and is extremely harmful to society, detrimental to our morals and is damming to the soul of man. Its nation-wide use in America has produced the majority of the wrecks on the highway, it has also caused many broken homes, broken hearts and made more than 5,200,000 habitual drunkards. Whiskey, wine and beer respects neither age nor sex. We should denounce it as deceptive and dangerous. We declare that total abstinence is the only course and work and pray that we may speedily rid our land of the Satanic menace. We also advise our preachers and members to not only admonish Temperance in intoxicating drinks but also in their talks or anything whereby our brethren might be offended.

Rev. Basil Matheny, Chairman
Bro. William Fitzgerald
Bro. Elmer McCowan

Report on Sunday School

We your committee on Sunday School, believe that the Sunday School is the most wonderful organized program in the church, for in this cause you can reach so many with God's word that you can't reach otherwise. It sure backs up the church.

Rev. James O. McCowan, Chairman
Bro. Lyle Ledbetter
Bro. James Rosebomer

Motion made to adjourn for 11:00 AM Preaching and to meet back at 1:00PM.

Rev. Edward Hargis preached a wonderful message.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

Called together at 1:00 PM by congregation singing "Send The Light". Moderator read scripture from 61st Pslams. Prayer by Bro. Freeman.

RECOGNIZING VISITING MINISTERS

Rev. Freema, United Baptist, Isman, Tenn.

Rev. Richard Cordell, First Freewill Baptist Church, Anderson, Indiana

COMMITTEE REPORTS CONT.

Report on Resolution

We your Committee on Resolution ask the Association to adopt this rule that all Ministers who do not make a report to be placed in the minutes as ministers who made no report. We also ask that the Association adopt this resolution that Ministers who fail to represent for two consecutive sessions of our association be dismissed from roll of Ordained Ministers.

We also ask that you adopt this rule: If any Minister fails to appear for two consecutive sessions of our Quarterly Meetings, that the Presby go see them.

We also agree to rotate our Conference and Association from one church to the other and not to visit any Church twice until all have been visited.

We also adopted Minister report form.

We believe also that the Revised Standard Version is an inaccurate translation of the Bible, and that it seeks to destroy the Deity of Christ, minimizes the necessity of the Second Birth and attempts to make void the sacrificial death of Christ on the cross, and it is therefore an open threat to our Christian way of life. We of this association, because of these convictions, unanimously repudiate it deem it fallacious, and declare we will neither teach it nor use it in any of our services.

Rev. James Phillips, Chairman

Bro. Ralph Burke

Bro. Charlie Buchanan

Report on Prayer Meeting

We your Committee on Prayer Meeting, urge and insist that prayer is needed more regularly throughout our communities. We feel that prayer meeting is needed at least once a week in all our Churches, for we feel that prayer is the key that unlocks Heaven's Door.

Bro. Morgan Shepherd, Chairman

Bro. William Fitzgerald

Bro. Lyle Ledbetter

EXPRESSING THANKS

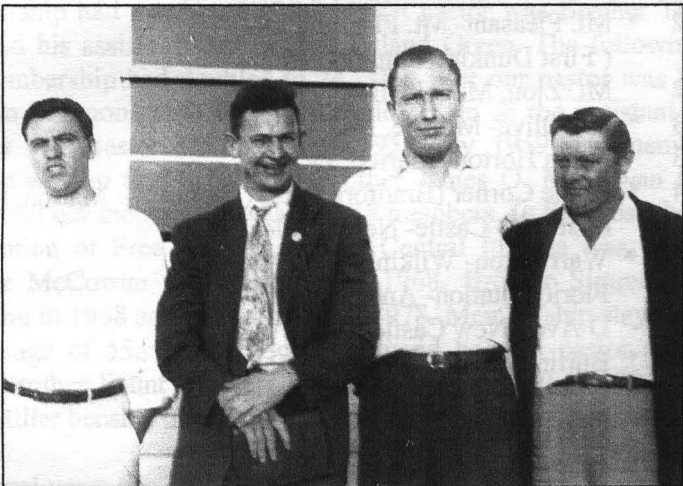
We the Ministers and Delegates, wish to thank the good people of Indianapolis for the good food and fellowship we have had with you. We hope to see you at Muncie next year.

May God bless you all is our prayer.

Our work being ended, motion made to adjourn until the next association which will begin on Friday the 4th Sunday in October.

Rev. Bill Simmons will preach the opening message.

End of the First Minutes



**Left to Right- James O. McCowan, Bill Simmons
Thurman Key, Herman Looper**

PROGRESS, GROWTH AND OUR PRESENT ASSOCIATION

From the Irondale Church in 1954 to the present, the Association has grown to a total 19 different Churches over the years, at this time there is 9 member Churches. During these growth years the Association has had a number of leaders who where instrumental in its enlargement. It is impossible to determine who has contributed the most time and organization, into this Association. To its Moderators, Clerks, Presbytery, Traveling Evangelists, and Delegates; all has done their part.

• List of Churches as they have entered the Association:

* Member Churches of the Association

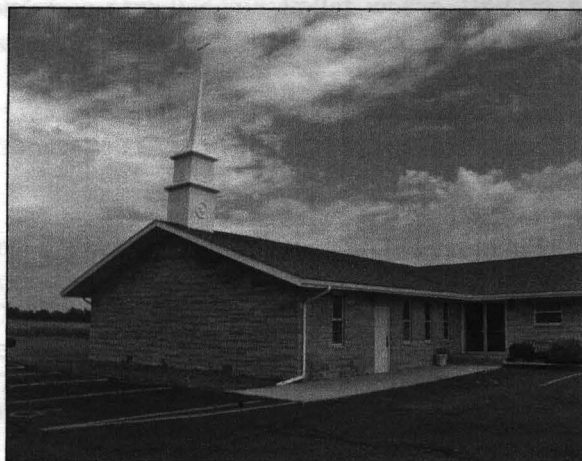
- 1960 * First Muncie- Yorktown, IN.
- 1960 * First Indianapolis (Mt. Carmel) - Indianapolis, IN.
- 1960 Mt. Hope- Anderson, IN. •
- 1962 * East 38th St.- Anderson, IN.
- 1962 * Mt. Pleasant- Mt. Pleasant, IN.
(First Dunkirk, Dunkirk, IN.)
- 1962 Mt. Zion, Muncie, IN.
- 1963 * Mt. Olive- Muncie, IN.
- 1963 North Horton- Marion, IN.
- 1964 * Home Corner (Bradford Pike) (Victory) – Marion, IN.
- 1969 First New Castle- New Castle, IN.
- 1969 * Warrington- Wilkinson, IN.
- 1970 Florida Station- Anderson, IN.
- 1971 D Ave.- New Castle, IN.
- 1974 * Burlington Drive- Muncie, IN.
- 1974 Arcadia- Arcadia, IN.
- 1974 Albany- Albany, KY.
- 1979 * Valley Grove- Anderson, IN.
- 1979 South Marion- Marion, IN.

• CHURCH HISTORIES

First Free Will Baptist of Muncie

6490 Cornbread Rd.

Yorktown, IN. 47396



Our church first began in an old school building in 1957. At the October session in 1957 we joined with the Eastern Division of the Stone Association of Free Will Christian Baptist in Tennessee. Our first membership had numbered 12. Our first pastor was Brother Thurman Key and his assistant was Brother Leland Green. The following year our membership had doubled to 24. That year our pastor was Brother William Simmons with Brother Leland Green as the assistant pastor. Brother was pastor for 1958 and 1959. By 1959 our membership number was up to 34. In 1960 Brother James O. McCowan became pastor and our membership reached 48 members. In that year the Stone Association of Free Will Baptist of Central Indiana was organized. Brother McCowan was pastor until 1968. Brother Simmons began pasturing in 1968 and continued until 1978. Membership stayed around an average of 55. Brother Bob Marquand became pastor a short in 1979. Brother Fount Childers was pastor from 1980 to 1986. Brother Jerry Miller became our pastor in 1986 and remains our current pastor.

Several years ago our safe was stolen from the church and all of our early minutes were taken and never found. The earliest deacon to serve the church was Brother Arel Beaty from 1960 to 1978. Other deacons

have included Brother Emery Harris, around 1962 and Brother George Smith, (1969 or 1970). Brother Esco Mullinex – 1965, Brother Randall Price (1971- 1987), Brother Bill McDowell – (1971- 1988), Brother Amos Wright- (1983- present).

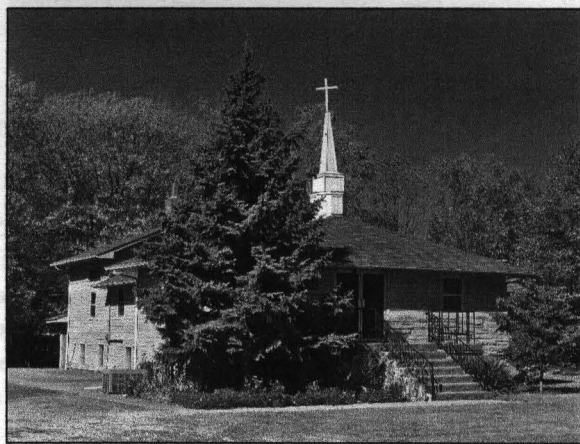
We moved from our old school building into the new and present day church in 1969. We had approximately 2/3 of an acre with the old school building. We purchased an additional 5 acres around the church in 1990 and in 1991 a new fellowship hall was completed shortly thereafter. The interior of the church was remodeled in 1995.

Mt Carmel Freewill Baptist Church

5602 E. 26th St.

Indianapolis, IN. 46218

(former name- First Freewill Baptist of Indianapolis)



In the fall of 1958, George and Rillie Owens decided that a Freewill Baptist church was needed in Indianapolis. They went to the 25th St. Freewill Baptist church in Anderson, In and talked with Brother Richard Cordell and Brother Bill Simmons, and they agreed to help start a new church in Indianapolis.

George rented a little church building on Church St. Within a few weeks Brothers Cordell and Simmons suggested we ask Brother James Phillips to come and help us get started, he agreed to come. After a short time on Church St. the services was moved to Sister Asberry's house. A few months later a building was rented on Meridian St. This

building was very run down and cold. George would have to leave home early and build a fire in the old coal stove for the services. The old ceiling finally fell in and it was not possible to hold services there. Services was moved to the Owens house at 918 N. Alabama St. and continued there for several months. Brother Owens and Brother Phillips found an empty building on Keystone and Prospect St. and services was moved there. Lots of time there was only the Owens and Phillips family, George would sing and Brother Phillips would preach. After awhile a building was rented on State and Prospect St., services was held in this location for several years. The Lord blessed the Church and it began to grow, and before long a bigger building was needed and the church was relocated on Emerson Ave. this was in 1963. The Church stayed at this location and in 1969 moved to its present location at 5602 E. 26th St.

Mt Carmel FWB has had 8 different Pastors since its organization in 1958. Pastors who have served; Rev. James Phillips- (1958-1969) and (1970- 1973), Rev. TL Page- (1969-1970) and (1977- 1984), Rev. Sidney Green- (1973- 1974), Rev. Tony Durham- (1975), Rev. Wayne Allen- (1975- 1976), Rev. Jerry Williams- (1985- 1986), Rev. Dallas Nance- (1987- 1988), Rev. Gregory McCarty- (1989 - present).

Deacons that have served the church number 10; Morgan Shephard, George Miller, JB Watson, Leon Smith, George Conatser, JC Rich, Kenneth McKim, Raymond Doss, Ralph Narmore, and currently, Ray Perry.

Mt. Hope Free Will Baptist Church

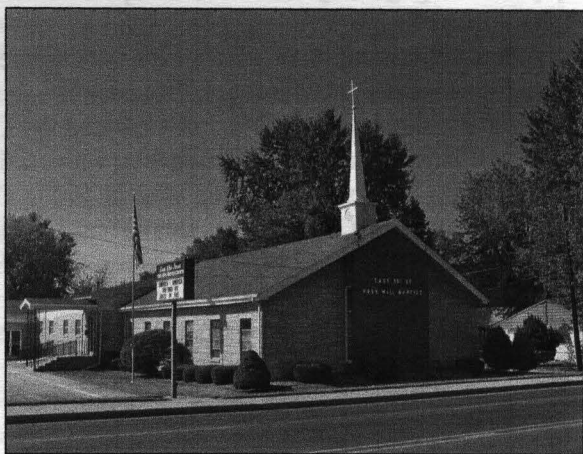
2026 Hendricks St,
Anderson, IN.

One of the original churches of the Stone Association in 1960, in 1962 was listed with membership of 53, Not listed in 1985 Minutes

Pastors: Gilbert Mata (1960, 65), Joseph Matheney (1961), Elmer Harris (1962), Bruce Jackson (1963, 64), Jobey Ledbetter (1966- 71), G. E. Wallace (1972- 77), Eddie Hargis (1979- 82), Larry G. Majors 1983, 84- (1985, asked for letter of good standing)

Deacons who have served this Church; Arron Vaughn , Roger Phillips, Cecil Carpenter, Jerry Graham, Juston Ledetter, Floyd Riddle

East 38th Street Free Will Baptist Church
1125 East 38th St., Anderson, IN. 46013



EAST SIDE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH met together Saturday, October 14, 1961 to organize. A small group met at 21st and Main Streets. This is the congregation that would later become East 38th Street Free Will Baptist Church.

Rev. Edward Hargis appointed Rev. James O. McCowan to act as moderator. The church elected Sis. Mary Sue McCowan as Clerk.

Bro. William McCowan was elected to serve as Asst. Clerk. The Deacons were, Bro. G.C. Cooper, Bro. P.A. Dixon, Bro. Herman Looper, and Bro. Willis Wilson. Bro. Wilson was ordained that day with the "laying on of hands" by Rev. Edward Hargis, Rev. Elmer Harris, Rev. Joe Matheney. Rev. J.O. McCowan, and Rev. Wm. Simmons. Bro. Billy Ray Jones was elected Steward, and Rev. Edward Hargis as Pastor.

There were twenty-six members to unite in membership that day: Bro. P.A. Dixon, Sis. Ester Dixon, Bro. Kenneth Dixon, Sis. Peggy Dixon, Bro. G.C. Cooper, Sis. Vonda Cooper, Sis. Patricia Cooper, Sis. Paula Cooper, Bro. Billy Langford, Sis. Lucille Langford, Bro. Herman Looper, Sis. Lillie Looper, Sis. Anna Looper, Bro. Willis Wilson, Sis. Berta Wilson, Sis. Patsy Wilson, Bro. Ricky Wilson, Bro. Billy Ray Jones, Sis. Betty Jones, Bro. Kenneth Ray Jones, Sis. Debbie Jones,

Bro. Edward Hargis, Sis. Eula Mae Hargis, Bro. William (Bill) McCowan, Sis. Mary Sue McCowan, Sis. Artie Sheets.

Rev. Hargis pastored until Rev. P.A. Dixon began in Jan. 26, 1963. Rev. Dixon pastored until May 12, 1994, when Rev. Gary Marcum began pastoring with Rev. Eric Fox serving as Associate Pastor.

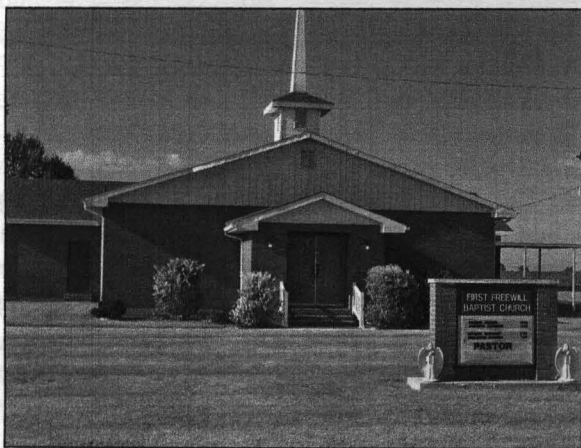
The original church services were held in a store-front building. This building was used for worship until March 15, 1964, when they moved to the present site. Since the original building was built, the church has undergone two expansions, as well as remodeling, and is presently in the planning mode of remodeling and enlarging the Fellowship Hall.

It has several active ministries, Senior and Junior Youth, Children's Church, Sunday School, Ladies Fellowship, Foreign Missions, Home Missions and more. It is a church that you can be proud of, enjoy worshipping in and you can belong to!

First Free Will Baptist Church of Dunkirk

Dunkirk IN. 47336

(former name: Mt. Pleasant Free Will Baptist Church- Mt. Pleasant, Indiana)



The First Free Will Baptist Church of Dunkirk was first established in New Mt. Pleasant in 1961 as a mission.

Sister Ina McCowan, a great worker of God, had prayed for several years for God to give us a church in this area. In October 1961, God answered that prayer and led Rev. Gilbert Mata this way.

On October 15, 1961 the church held its first service in the old gray school building at New Pleasant, Indiana, east of Red Key, Indiana, with attendance of 28 in Sunday School.

On July 26, 1962 the church was organized with 26 charter members. The church called Rev. James Phillips as their first pastor, and Bro. Fred Sampley and Bro Troy Hassis as deacons.

In June 1964, the church moved to Red Key, Indiana, on East High Street and stayed there almost two years.

In 1966 God blessed us with a new church in Dunkirk, Indiana, located 2 miles south of Dunkirk on 167, ½ mile east on road 1100 N. We had our first service in the new church on Easter Sunday, 1966, with a Sun Rise Service. God has wonderfully blessed the church. Bro Troy Harris moved out of the state and Bro. James Lee was ordained Deacon in 1966.

Sister McCowan lived to see her prayers answered, and the new church built and many of her family and friends saved in it. Her Grandson Rev. Delmar McCowan was pastor of the church from 1967 to 1970.

Four new classrooms were added in the spring of 1971, making a total of eight. The Lord has also blessed the church with a radio program each Sunday morning.

Pastors: Rev. James Phillips, Rev. Elmer Harris, Rev. Delmer McCowan, Rev. Thurman L. Page, Rev. Wayne Allen, Rev. Marion Donathon, Rev. Evertt Bilbry, Rev. John G. Crisp, Rev. Fount Childers, Rev. Mark Sluss, Rev. Charles E. Holliday, Rev. James Hamm

Deacons: Brothers; Troy Harris, Fred Sampley, James Lee, Tommt Walker, Maurice Jones, Paul Skeens, Bill Bishop, Jay Simons

Mt. Zion Free Will Baptist Church

514 Howard St. (1962)

227 Hoyt Ave. (1963)

Muncie, IN.

Pastor: Bill Simmons (1962- 67)

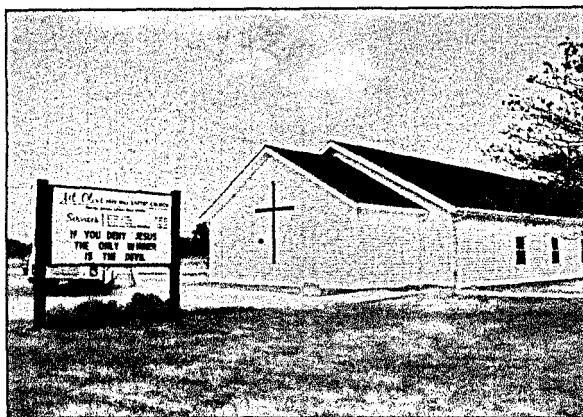
Clerks: Juanita Hargis 1962 Anges L. Page 1967

1968- not listed in minutes - No other information at this time.

Mt. Olive Free Will Baptist

7500 North Wheeling Ave.

Muncie, IN. 47304



Our beginnings started as a Free Will Baptist Mission and began on 17th Street in Muncie. From there it moved to the corner of 18th St. and Walnut, where it was organized a church on May 25, 1963 by the Presby of the Stone Association of Free Will Baptist of Central Indiana. Presby chairman was Rev. James Phillips. Other members of the Presby were: Rev. William Simmons, Rev. James McCowan, Rev. Gilbert Mata, and Rev. Elmer Harris.

The church was organized with 13 charter members. Deacons ordained were Bro. Charles Crabtree and Bro. Charles Reagan; Sister Alene Reagan was elected Clerk, and Rev. Leelan Green was elected as Pastor.

The Free Will Baptist Mission's name was changed to Mt. Olive Free Will Baptist on June 22, 1963. Our first revival was held by Bro. Carson Whittaker. In March 1965 the Church bought property on West

8th St. On March 20th of that year our first revival was held in that building by Rev. PA Dixon. On June 30 1972 a church was purchased on Wheeling Pike. The first service was held at this building on July 9, 1972 with Rev. Benton Hargis as Pastor. A year later, Rev. Hargis built our first fellowship hall on this property. We are still enjoying worship at this building. The mortgage was burned on November 15, 1992 in a service conducted by our current Pastor, Rev. James Oliver McCowan. In July 1998 work began on a new fellowship hall which was completed in October 1998. This connected our church, fellowship hall, and previous fellowship hall. In September 1999 our old fellowship hall became home to 3 new classrooms and a supply storage room.

Pastors: Rev. Leelan Green- (1963- 64), Rev. Gilbert Mata- (1964- 69), Rev. John Hargis- (1969- 78), Rev. Thurman Key- (1978- 81), Rev. James Sluss- (1981- 90), Rev. James O. McCowan- (1990-present).

Deacons who have served our church: Bro. Charles Reagan, Bro. Robert Clark, Bro. John Maness, Bro. Larry Bailey. Current Deacons; Bro. Charles Crabtree, Bro. Clyde Hinds, Bro. Scott Davis.

North Horton Free Will Baptist Church

Marion, IN.

Came into Association as a Church in 1963

Delegates for 1963: Bro. Andey Elkins , Bro. Leroy Layne

Pastor: Gilbert Mata 1963,

Clerk: Bessie Harris 1963

Membership: 1963 – 42

1964- not listed in minutes - No other information at this time.

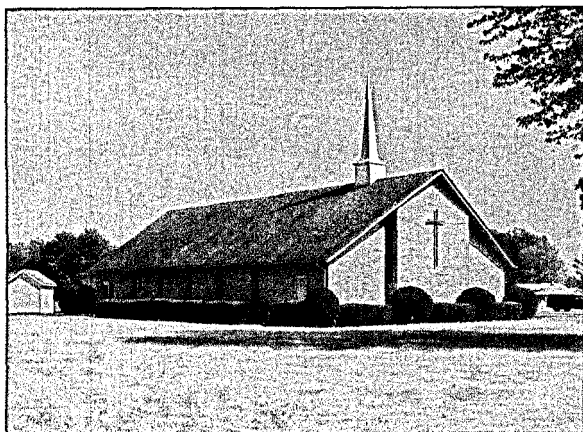
Victory Free Will Baptist Church

3576 North 500 East

Marion, IN. 46017

(former name Home Corner FWB Church)

(former name Bradford Pike FWB Church)



Victory FWB Church had its beginning as Home Corner FWB Church, 1511 East 37th St.- Marion, In. Its first meeting was on 4th Sunday of August, 1964. In attendance was Bro. Andy and Liza Elkins, the Roberts family- Tolbert, Pat, and children, Sister Ruby Conley and children. Bro. Scott Buckler, Harris family- Marion, Bessie, and Cathy. This building had no; water, outside toilets, air conditioning, pews, or fans- but it did have 2 Sunday School rooms.

On October 5, 1964 the Presby was called to organize the Home Corner FWB Church. Brothers Talbert Roberts and Scott Buckler were ordained as Deacons, the Church was organized with 10 members. Bro. Bill Parsons was elected as Pastor.

Out grew old building and with the leadership of Bro. James Sluss moved to Bradford Pike on December 5, 1972. Dedication service was preached by Rev. James McCowan, followed by a revival. In 1985 a new fellowship hall started and finished in 1986, led by Bro. John Denniston.

Pastors: Rev. Bill Parsons- (1964- 65), Rev. Andy Elkins- (1965- 68), Rev. James Sluss- (1968-80), Rev. Gary Marcum- (1980- 84), Rev.

John Denniston- (1984- 88), Rev. Randall Brashear- (1988- 92), Rev. Mark Sluss- (1993- 2000), Rev. James Sluss- (2001- present).

Deacons that have served this church: Tolbert Roberts, Scotty Buckler, Chuck Reagon, Bob Owsley, John H. Denniston, Denville Joseph, Randall Brashear.

First FWB Church of New Castle New Castle, IN.

On August 7, 1969, the Presby was called to organize the First FWB Church of New Castle. Brothers Harlen Roseberry, Harold Brown, and Robert Denney were examined, and ordained to the office of deacon. There were 20 charter members present. Bro. Herbert Roseberry was elected as Pastor.

This church last reported to the Association in 1970 with membership of 30. No other information at this time.

Warrington Free Will Baptist Church 8356 n. St. Rd. 109 Wilkinson, IN. 46186



(The history of the Warrington FWB Church prior to 1993 has been taken from the Minute Books of the Association, due to the Church has little information before this time.)

As early as 1966 Warrington is entered into the Minutes as a Mission Church and list 2 reporting delegates, Bro. Bruce Jackson and Bro. Ralph Burke.

On December 15, 1968 the Presby was called to organize the Warrington Church. Bro. Johnny Gentry was examined and ordained as a deacon. Bro. Ralph Burke came in as a deacon also. There were 27 charter members and listed Rev. Bruce L. Jackson as Pastor.

The Warrington Church continues to letter in as a Mission Church until 1975. On March 2, 1975, the Presby was called to the Warrington FWB Church to organize it and examine Bro. Ron West and Bro. Steve Delpth for the office of Deacon. After examination they were passed. Membership of 16 were present and it was set in order. Listed as Pastor was Rev. John Miller.

Warrington for the years of 1985 to 1992 did not letter into to Association. Since 1993 and the election of Rev. Paul Masters, as its Pastor, Warrington FWB has continue to have an active part in the Association. There has been extensive renovations done to the church since 1993. Beginning in 1994, the entire sanctuary was remodeled and a fellowship hall was installed in 1995. The furnace and air conditioning was updated in 1997. A new roof and siding was installed in 1998, and a new baptistery in 1999. From this time forward a wheelchair ramp , new concrete porch and walks, a church sign, landscaping, and a 200 amp electrical service has all been installed.

Pastors: Rev. Bruce L. Jackson- (1966-69), Rev. Wayne Allen- (1970-72), Rev. John Miller- (1973- 77), Rev. Gilbert Mata- (1978- 79). Rev. William Parsons- (1980- 85),
(no records of Pastor; 1986- 1992), Rev. Paul Masters- (1993-present)

Deacons that has served this church: Johnny Gentry, Ralph Burk, Ron West, Steve Delpth, JB Peek, Kenny Grider

Florida Station Free Will Baptist Church

Anderson, IN.

On May 10, 1970, the Presby was called to the Florida Station church of Anderson, for the purpose of organizing the church. Bro. Roden Cravens, came before the Presby to have his credentials ratified as a Deacon for the church, after examination he was accepted. Bro. Earnest J. Ledbetter came before the Presby, he was examined and ordained as Deacon of the church also. The church was organized with 23 charter members.

Pastor: Rev. Willie Ledbetter- (1970- 72), Rev. Gilbert Mata- (1973), Rev. Willie Ledbetter(1974- 78)

Deacons: Roden Cravens, Earnest J. Ledbetter, John Crisp, Dan Baker

D Ave. Free Will Baptist Church

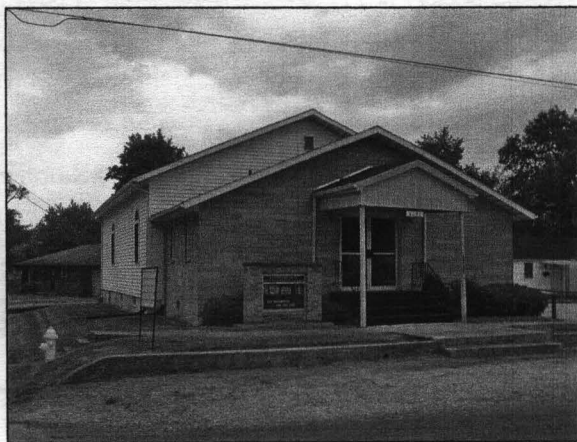
New Castle, IN.

1971 listed as a mission in minutes and Rev. Bruce Jackson as Pastor
1972, 73, 74 listed as mission and Rev. Thurman Key as Pastor
1975 no listing in minutes -No other information at this time.

Burlington Dr. Free Will Baptist Church

1131 Burlington Dr.

Muncie, IN. 47302



Listed in 1968 as a Mission, with Rev. James O. McCowan as Pastor.

On June 5, 1969, the Presby was called to organize the Burlington Dr. Church. Bros. Nathan Mullinix and Elmer Harris were examined and ordained as deacons to serve the Church. The church was organized with 18 charter members.

Pastors: Rev. James O. McCowan- (1968), Rev. Marion Donathon- (1973), Rev. James O. McCowan- (1974-82), Rev. Evertt Bilbrey Jr.- (1983-92), Rev. Claude Fields- (1996- 2001), Rev. Jackie Guinn- (2006-09)

Deacons who has served the Church: Brothers; Nathan Mullinix, John H. Estepp, Ernest Clayborn, Bill Bishop, Hollins Hinds, Robert Coleman

Arcadia Free Will Baptist Church

Arcadia, IN.

1973, 74, listed as mission in minutes, and Rev, Harold Collins as Pastor

1975 no longer listed in minutes - No other information at this time.

Albany Free Will Baptist Church

Albany, KY.

1974- 75 listed as a mission

Pastor- Rev. James Lee

February 28, 1976- Preby met at the First Free Will Baptist Church of Albany, Ky. for the purpose of organizing the church. Bro. James Preyriter and Larry Bowlin was ordained to serve as Deacons for the church.

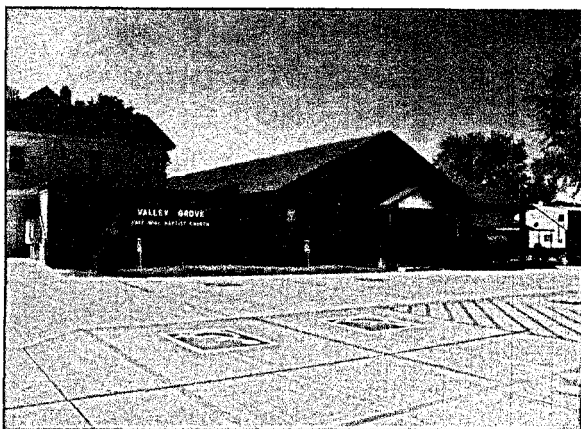
Pastor: Rev. James Lee- 1974-76

April 19, 1974- Letter from First Church of Dunkirk, sent letter for Bro. James Lee. Recommended to be ordained to preach the Gospel, after examined, was passed.

No listing in 1977

History of Valley Grove Free Will Baptist Church

2996 E. St. Rd. 236
Anderson, IN.



Valley Grove has a split History- that of the original church at Valley Grove and that of the Florida Station congregation that moved to Valley Grove in 1979. Our earliest account of a church at Valley Grove is that of Clem Chapel Church in 1924. It was housed in a white two-story, coal heated building that is now being used for classrooms and Junior Church at Valley Grove Free Will Baptist Church. In 1930, it became Allen Bethel Church of God New Dunkards. In 1955, the church withdrew from the Church of God New Dunkards Conference and sometime thereafter its name was changed to Allen Bethel Evangelistic Church.

In 1970 under the pastorate of Rev. Bill Johns, the church joined the White River Conference of Free Will Baptist and took the name Valley Grove Free Will Baptist Church.

In 1975-1976 under the pastorate of Rev. Ed Hargis, the Valley Grove Free Will Baptist Church built the present brick building housing a 250 seat auditorium, baptistery, nursery, office, and entrance area

The present congregation has its roots at Florida Station. While still under minister's license, Brother Bill Ledbetter started a mission at Florida Station. The mission grew and was organized May 3, 1970 as Florida Station Free Will Baptist Church and joined the Stone

Association of Free Will Baptist of Central Indiana with Rev. Bill Ledbetter as pastor.

In 1979, the Florida Station Free Will Baptist Church congregation with Rev. Bill Ledbetter as pastor accepted an invitation to move to the Valley Grove Free Will Baptist Church and took full governmental control including its financial responsibilities. At that time they changed their name from Florida Station to the existing and present name of Valley Grove Free Will Baptist Church and continued to belong to the Stone Association of Free Will Baptist of Central Indiana.

Rev. Bill Ledbetter remained pastor at Valley Grove until 2000. He was followed by Rev. John Crisp until 2002. On June 30, 2002, Rev. Joe Roysden was elected pastor and he remains as the present pastor of Valley Grove Free Will Baptist Church.

South Marion Free Will Baptist Church

3730 S. Boots St.

Marion, IN.

Pastor: Rev. Dooley Hollars (1979- 84)

Deacons: Brothers; Tolbert Roberts, Garland Webb, Don Clark , Edward Hall

Clerk: Phyllis Meade

Not listed in minutes for 1985 -No other information at this time.

• Ministers

Bill Simmons preaching at a baptismal service.



“Preach the Word “ is the and basic duty of any man called of God into the ministry. Free Will Baptist believe in a divine call, that can only come from God. When we think back of those days gone by, there are “ Mountain Preacher “ who stand out in our minds. They had little in this world, worked hard to support their families, and had little or no education. But when it was time to “go to Church” everything else did not matter. The roads where graveled, the weather was cold or it was hot and it rained or it snowed. This does not stop a God called man, for he has been with out, he has prayed it through, he has read his Bible by oil lamp and God has given him the Word. Many of these men are gone from us and their worn out bodies rest on a hill looking for that resurrection morning. Let us not forget.

***“I send you to reap that whereon ye bestowed no labour :
other men laboured, and ye are entered into their labours.”***

John 4: 38



• **Ordained Ministers as they appear in Minutes:**

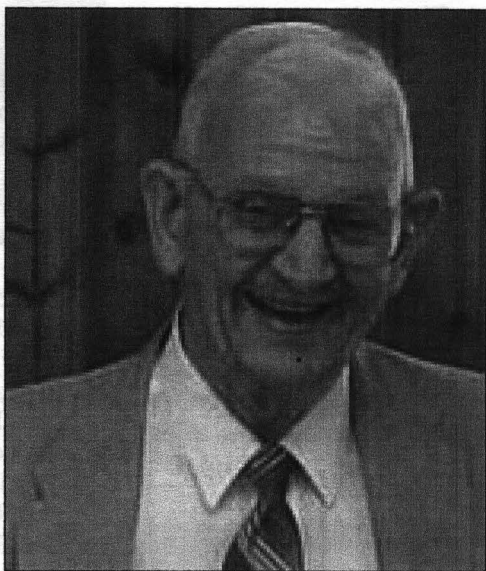
*** Deceased**

| | | | |
|------|---------------------|------|---------------------|
| 1960 | * Bill Simmons | 1978 | Johnie Hummel |
| 1960 | James O McCowan | 1978 | Gary Marcum |
| 1960 | James W. Phillips | 1979 | Dooley Hollars |
| 1960 | *Joseph B. Matheney | 1980 | John G. Crisp |
| 1960 | *Elmer Harris | 1980 | Eddie Hargis |
| 1961 | *Edward Hargis | 1980 | *Fount Childers |
| 1961 | James A. Stephens | 1982 | Everett Bilbrey Jr. |
| 1962 | *Bruce L. Jackson | 1982 | Jerry Graham |
| 1962 | William Conley | 1982 | Larry G. Majors |
| 1962 | Gilbert Mata | 1982 | Steve Marcum |
| 1962 | *Leelen Green | 1983 | *Fred Lucas |
| 1963 | *P. A. Dixon | 1983 | Paul Masters |
| 1965 | *Benton Hargis | 1983 | *Woodrow Pinkleton |
| 1965 | Delmer McCowan | 1984 | Wilbur L. DuBois Jr |
| 1965 | Andy Elkins | 1984 | Mark W. Sluss |
| 1965 | William Parsons | 1985 | John Denniston |
| 1967 | *Jobey Ledbetter | 1985 | Jerry Williams Sr. |
| 1967 | Thurman L. Page | 1987 | Dallas Nance |
| 1967 | James E. Sluss | 1987 | Max Owens |
| 1969 | *Hubert Roseberry | 1988 | Mike Barker |
| 1969 | Willie Ledbetter | 1988 | Randall Brashear |
| 1969 | *Thurman Key | 1988 | Jerry Miller |
| 1970 | *James M. Cassell | 1990 | Gregory K. McCarty |
| 1970 | William Hollars | 1993 | Eric Fox |
| 1970 | Wayne Allen | 1995 | Claude Fields |
| 1970 | Larry Barker | 1995 | Jackie Guinn |
| 1971 | Marion Donathan | 2002 | Joe Roysden |
| 1971 | Harold Collins | 2004 | Jim R. Hamm |
| 1972 | *George E. Wallace | 2004 | Aaron Sluss |
| 1974 | Sidney Green | 2006 | Charles E. Holliday |
| 1974 | *John R. Miller | | |
| 1974 | *James Lee | | |

“Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore ? “ – Matt. 19: 27.

Many of the names from above have understood the question and have left this life. They have inherit everlasting life through; following, self-denial, forsaking all – And now rest from their Labors. All to be remembered. Two stands out, Bill Simmons and P.A. Dixon.

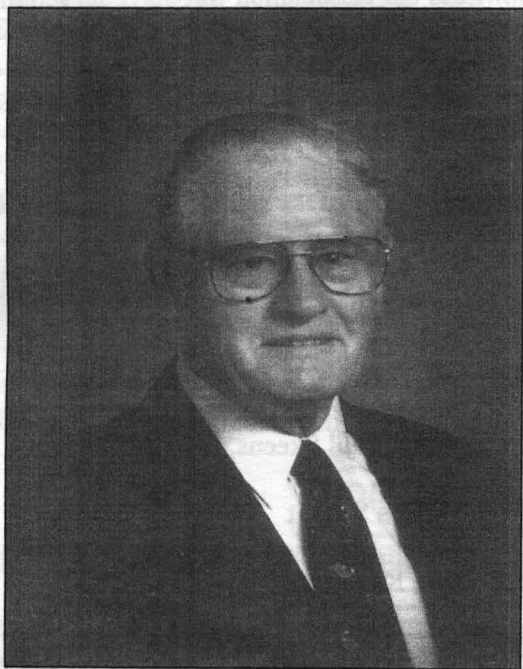
REV. BILL SIMMONS – the son of Dock Onues and Mattie Jane Simmons was born in Sparta, White Co., Tenn. On April 7, 1928. Died on July 28, 2008 and is buried in Cumberland Co., Tenn. at the Smith Chapel FWB Cemetery. He married his wife Velma on September 2, 1945 with only a couple of dollars in their pockets. From this union four boys and two girls where born to them. Brother Bill's education came as most others in rural Tenn., completing the eight grade. He was Licensed in 1950 and was Ordained by the Western Division of the Stone in Tenn. on Oct. 19, 1951. For the need to better his family and hearing of work in Indiana, he moved to Anderson in 1953. He attended the Irondale Free Will Baptist Church later to become organized as the First Free Will Baptist Church of Anderson.



Rev. Bill Simmons

Brother Bill with others has been given credit for the co-founding of the Stone Association of Central Indiana. He was its first Moderator to be elected and served a total of four times, 1960, 1961, 1962, and 1967. Also he has served as clerk of the association for the years 1974 to 1977. He has pastor three of the Association's Churches; East 38th St. FWB, 1962; Mt. Zion FWB, 1962 to 1967; and First Muncie FWB, 1970 to 1978. Moved to Tennessee and pastured five Churches; Smith Chapel FWB, 1979; Johnson Chapel FWB, 1980; Ridgedale FWB 1982- 1983; Broad Valley FWB 1984-1986; Hensley Chapel, 1987-2001.

REV. P. A. DIXON – the son of Gilbert and Mary Dixon was born in Monterey, Overton Co., Tenn. on July 23, 1926. He died on Sept. 5, 1996 and is buried in Fort Worth, TX. at the Laurel Land Cemetery. He married his wife Ester Looper on Nov. 30, 1946, and from this union one son and one daughter was born. Living in Tenn. and hearing that there were good jobs in Indiana went with Herman Looper and each found work and both moved to Indiana in 1952. They started attending the Irondale Free Will Baptist Church.



Rev. P.A. Dixon

He had served the Association from its early beginnings. Being Licensed in 1962 and Ordained on January 19, 1963 and became the Pastor of East 38th St. Free Will Baptist in Anderson, In. and was its Pastor for 32 years. Early records show that for the first 20 years of his ministry he preached 2881 times and baptized 311 converts. Brother Dixon will be remembered as a Pastor's Pastor, sound in doctrine, and always having an encouraging word.

DEACONS:

From our Minutes we read: "The deacons are elected for life or during good behavior. They should be men distinguished among their brethren for piety and benevolence." Deacons serve the Church. His duties are to visit the sick, to serve at the Lords table, to assist the Pastor in promoting fellowship among its members and if need be to conduct religious meetings in the absence of the Pastor.

We have two men in our Association who have served their Churches well through the years.

Bro. Charles Crabtree – ordained May 25, 1963 and serves at Mt.Olive FWB Church in Muncie, Indiana.

Bro. Ray Perry – ordained January 18, 1964 and serves at Mt. Carmel FWB Church in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Our current Deacons;

East 38th St FWB.- Bro. Branden Looper, Bro. Joe Vaughn

First Dunkirk FWB – Bro. Paul Skeens, Bro. Bill Bishop,

First Muncie FWB – Amos Wright

Mt. Carmel FWB – Bro. Ray Perry

Mt. Olive FWB – Bro. Charles Crabtree, Bro. Clyde Hinds,
Bro. Scott Davis

Valley Grove FWB – Bro. Cecil McDonald, Bro. Randal Price

Warrington FWB – Bro. Forrest Hicks

• Youth for Christ

From early on, the Sunday School was the only means to keep our youth active in all our churches. As each church would establish and develop their own Sunday Schools, a time came when it was needed that our youth should interact with other churches. At the October Session in 1969, the Association voted to establish a "Youth for Christ Program", that would involve activities for all of our youth in our churches as one. From "Bible Quiz" to "Bible Challenge" competition was set up as teams would compete with each other on bible knowledge. Each year two youth activities have well been supported by our churches, an annual "Youth Revival" and a "Spring Youth Rally". When our youth come together; its time for fellowship, worship, preaching, food and fun activities. Many have come to know Christ as their Savior through these efforts. Our Association and Churches would not be the same, if it were not for the vision of men and women to unite, challenge and to educate the youth.

• MEETING DATES, PLACES, AND THEIR MODERATORS, PLUS BRIEF HIGHLIGHTS

| DATE | PLACE | MODERATOR |
|------------------|--|----------------|
| 1960, Oct. 21-22 | Indianapolis | Bill Simmons |
| | First Annual Session | |
| 1961, Oct. 20-21 | 1 st Muncie | Bill Simmons |
| | First Traveling Evangelist Report given by Rev. Elmer Harris | |
| 1962, Oct. 26-27 | Mt. Hope | Bill Simmons |
| 1963, Oct. 25-26 | Mt. Zion | James McCowan |
| 1964, Oct. 23,24 | East 38 th St. | P.A. Dixon |
| 1965, Oct. 23-23 | 1 st Dunkirk | Elmer Harris |
| | From 1960 to 1964 the Minutes read Freewill Baptist | |
| | From 1965 to present Minutes read Free Will Baptist | |
| 1966, Oct. 21-22 | Mt. Olive | James McCowan |
| 1967, Oct. 20-21 | Home Corner | Bill Simmons |
| 1968, Oct. 25-26 | Warrington | James Phillips |
| 1969, Oct. 24-25 | East 38 th St. | Benton Hargis |
| | Youth for Christ program started | |

| | | |
|--|----------------------------|------------------|
| 1970, Oct. 23-24 | 1 st New Castle | P.A. Dixon |
| General Director for Youth elected: Rev. Jobey Ledbetter | | |
| 1971, Oct. 22-23 | Florida Stn. | James McCowan |
| 1972, Oct. 20-21 | Mt. Carmel | Willie Ledbetter |
| 1973, Oct. 26-27 | 1 st Muncie | Willie Ledbetter |
| 1974, Oct. 25-26 | Mt. Hope | James Sluss |
| 1975, Oct. 24-25 | Bradford Pk. | James McCowan |
| 1976, Oct. 22-23 | Warrington | P.A. Dixon |
| 1977, Oct. 21-22 | East 38 th St. | James Sluss |
| 1978, Oct. 20-21 | Florida Station | P.A. Dixon |

Preachers and Deacon's Meeting changed to a Fellowship

| | | |
|------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| 1979, Oct. 26-27 | South Marion | P.A. Dixon |
| 1980, Oct. 24-25 | Burlington Dr. | P.A. Dixon |
| 1981, Oct. 23-24 | 1 st Dunkirk | T.L. Page |
| 1982, Oct. 22-23 | Mt. Carmel | James McCowan |
| 1983, Oct. 21-22 | 1 st Muncie | James Sluss |
| 1984, Oct. 26-27 | Mt. Hope | P.A. Dixon |

25th Annual Session

Home Mission and Church Extension Board established:

Board members; Brothers, Gary Marcum, Fred Lucas, Marion Donathon

| | | |
|------------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| 1985, Oct. 24-26 | Bradford Pk. | P.A. Dixon |
| 1986, Oct. 23-25 | Mt. Olive | P.A. Dixon |
| 1987, Oct. 22-24 | East 38 th St. | John Crisp |
| 1988, Oct. 20-22 | Valley Grove | James Sluss |
| 1989, Oct. 19-21 | Burlington Dr. | James Sluss |

Church Informational Committee established

| | | |
|------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| 1990, Oct. 25-27 | 1 st Dunkirk | James Sluss |
| 1991, Oct. 24-26 | Mt. Carmel | P.A. Dixon |
| 1992, Oct. 23-25 | 1 st Muncie | James Sluss |
| 1993, Oct. 21-23 | Bradford Pk. | James Sluss |
| 1994, Oct. 20-22 | Mt. Olive | James McCowan |
| 1995, Oct. 19-21 | Warrington | James McCowan |
| 1996, Oct. 24-26 | East 38 th St. | James McCowan |
| 1997, Oct. 23-25 | Burlington Dr. | James McCowan |
| 1998, Oct. 22-24 | Valley Grove | James McCowan |
| 1999, Oct. 21-23 | 1 st Dunkirk | John Crisp |
| 2000, Oct. 19-21 | 1 st Muncie | Mark Sluss |
| 2001, Oct. 25-27 | Victory | John Crisp |
| 2002, Oct. 24-26 | Mt. Olive | James McCowan |
| 2003, Oct. 23-25 | Warrington | James McCowan |
| 2004, Oct. 21-23 | East 38 th St. | James McCowan |
| 2005, Oct. 20-22 | Burlington Dr. | James McCowan |

2006, Oct. 19-21
2007, Oct. 25-27
2008, Oct. 23-25
2009, Oct. 22-24

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|-------------------------|---------------|
| Valley Grove | James McCowan |
| 1 st Dunkirk | James McCowan |
| 1 st Muncie | James McCowan |
| Victory | James McCowan |

50th Annual Session

THE FUTURE

- **Remember the days of old**

If the past years have been our foundation, then for the future we should look to the past. Let us not forget the labors of our past that got us to where we are today. The preaching the tears, the revivals, prayer around the altar, to Homecomings, SS picnics, Christmas plays, Creek Baptisms and Communion & Feet Washing Services. All these and more has molded us to what we are as Free Will Baptist and will long be etched in our minds for years to come. We should be encouraged by the past, its men and women, its growth, and the passion to see souls saved. For the coming years, our emphasis should be on a solid effort to increase in all departments, that all may be proud.

“ O God, when the tears are dried and we leave this place, we pray that there will be commitments and decisions made that will be permanent and lasting, decisions that will change the lives of people so that they will follow the precious Lord Jesus Himself “

Rev. Bobby Jackson

*“Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generation:
ask thy father, and he will shew thee;
thy elders and they will tell thee.”*

Deuteronomy 32: 7

Articles of Faith

Article 1. We believe in one eternal God, the Creator and upholder of all things and in Jesus Christ, His Son, and in the Holy Ghost, and that these three are one: - John 1:1; I Cor. 8:6; John 10:30.

Article 2. We believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God, and the only rule of Faith and Practice: - II Pet. 1:19,20; II Tim. 3:14-17; Dan. 10:21; Acts 1:16,17; Matt. 21:42.

Article 3. We believe that man is unable to recover himself from the fallen state that he is in, by reason of sin, only by the grace of God through the exercise of faith: - Gen. 1:27; Gen. 2:16,17; Psalms 51:5; Rom. 5:12-19; John 3:5-7; Eph. 2:3.

Article 4. We believe that baptism and the Lords Supper and the washing of the saints feet are ordinances of Jesus Christ and that immersion is the only mode of baptism, not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God by the resurrection of Jesus Christ: - Matt. 3:14-16; Matt. 3:5,6; I Pet. 3:21; John 3:21; Acts 10:47; Matt. 28:19; Luke 22:18-20; I Cor.11:20-29; John 13:1-7; Matt. 26:26-29

Article 5. We believe that no minister has the right to administer these ordinances except such as are regularly ordained: - I Tim. 4:14; Acts 8:17-19; II Tim. 1; Heb. 6:2.

Article 6. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, a general judgment the punishment of the wicked, and the joys of the righteous are eternal. Matt. 28:6; John 5:28,29 I Cor. 15:51-58; John 11:25; II Thess. 1:4-9; Rev. 14:9-13; Luke 16:23; Rom. 2:4,5; II Cor. 5:10; Matt. 12:36; Rev. 20:11-15; Matt. 25:41; Acts 17:13; Isa. 33:14.

Article 7. We believe according to the Scriptures; Paul's letter to the Hebrews 6:1-7, that after man has been made partaker of the Holy Ghost, if he shall fall from Grace, it is impossible to renew him again unto repentance, or restore him unto the favor of God. Heb. 6:1-7; I John 5:16.

Article 8. We believe that a man can make shipwreck of his faith and be lost. Rom. 8:38,39; I Cor. 10:9; Job 17:9; Matt. 16:18; John 10:27,28; Phil. 1:6; II Chron. 15; II Pet. 1:10; Ezek. 33:18; John 15:16; I Cor. 10:12; Heb. 12:15; I Chron. 28:9; Rev. 2:4,5; Acts 1:25; Matt. 24:13; Rev. 22:19; Phil. 3:11-14.

Article 9. We believe that sanctification is the work of Gods grace, by which the soul is cleansed from all sin and wholly consecrated to Christ. It takes place in the Grace and the Knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ and becomes final in end. Heb. 12:14; Phil. 3:21; I Cor. 6:11; II Thess. 2:13; I Thess. 5:19-23; John 17:17-19; II Tim. 2:19-21.

Article 10. We believe that all Christians have a right to the sacramental table upon the principles of their acceptance with Him, for St. Paul says, "But let a man examine himself, and let him eat of that bread and drink of that cup." I Cor. 11:28

Article 11. We believe that no person is a member of the Free Will Baptist Church except those that have the witness within themselves.

OUR YEAR OF JUBILEE
1960 – 2010

**THE STONE ASSOCIATION
OF FREE WILL BAPTIST
OF CENTRAL INDIANA
2010**

“I have considered the days of old -”

Psalm 77: 5