

# Convention News

## 2008 FREE WILL BAPTIST NATIONAL CONVENTION

SUNDAY, JULY 20, 2008

CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA



## WELCOME TO CHARLESTON

### Things to See and Do (and Eat) in the Convention City

**CONGRATULATIONS! YOU DID IT!** You made it to Charleston, West Virginia, home to the 2008 Free Will Baptist National Convention. Welcome back to another year, another convention, and another city to explore.

For those already tired of staring at the walls of your hotel room, we've got the scoop on the best sites and attractions Charleston has to offer. Don't waste your spare time. Check out the following places and make the most of your week here in West Virginia.

#### Step Back in Time

Interested in history? As the capital of West Virginia, Charleston offers several great sites for the history buff. The Governor's Mansion, home to West Virginia's governor and some fine antiques, offers tours on Thursdays and Fridays between 9:30 am and 11:30 am.

The State Capitol Building features the largest state capitol dome in the country. It opens at 9 am every weekday and closes to the public at 7 pm, but guided tours end at 3:30.

In addition, Charleston's famous East End provides visitors a glimpse of a wide variety of eclectic homes, ranging from turn of the century Federal mansions to art nouveau cottages and French-Chateau homes. As you walk the quiet sidewalks, you will step back in time to Charleston's heyday of the early part of the 20th century.

#### Natural Habitat

Nature lovers will enjoy sunrise on the trail—the Sunrise Carriage Trail, that is. Adjacent to the 36-room, Georgian-styled Sunrise Mansion built in 1900, visitors to Charleston will find a scenic woodland trail that meanders along a gentle incline for more than a mile before it ends in a fantastic overlook of the city of Charleston.

#### Fun for the Kids

Having trouble entertaining the young ones? Here are some great ideas for youth groups and children:

Cheer on the Appalachian Power baseball club, single-A affiliate of the Milwaukee Brewers. Relax in the recently constructed Appalachian Power Park, which brings to mind Wrigley Field. Be sure to sample "Custard's Last Stand," a unique hot-dog and chili dish sure to be a hit for hours.

The Avampato Discovery Museum is home to two floors of hands-on science exhibits and a planetarium. Located inside the Clay Center for the Arts and Sciences, the museum is open every day.

The Southridge Grand Prix Family Fun Center offers three indoor go-cart tracks, miniature golf, and laser tag. Located on Southridge Boulevard, this great afternoon getaway is only fifteen minutes from the convention center.

Coonskin Park is an 850-acre park that has many recreational activities for all ages, including picnicking, tennis, fishing, paddle boating, hiking, and golfing. A children's playground and concession stand are also on the property. The park is only fifteen miles from the convention center as well.

#### Local Flavor

Hungry? You're not alone. Charleston is filled with great eateries serving all types of cuisine. Located right by the convention center is the Charleston Town Center Mall. The mall offers not only three stories of shops and stores, but also a food court featuring a dozen restaurants.

Save time to eat a Hot Fudge Cake at the original Shoney's restaurant. Shoney's opened in Charleston in 1947 as the Parkette Restaurant and Bowling Alley. Before long, the restaurant was renamed Big Boy's Hamburgers, and the rest is history. New owners changed the name to Shoney's in 1953, at the suggestion of an employee.

Although many things have changed during the restaurant's 70 year history, at least one thing remains true to the original...the hot fudge cake is just as good as ever!

Visit the Village. Capitol Street, also known as The Village, is made up of local flavor...literally. Try a scoop of ice cream at Ellens, breathe the fragrant aroma of roasting nuts at The Peanut Shop, and enjoy the delectable recipes from Joe at local Italian favorite, Graziano's.

Plan a trip to the Indoor-Outdoor Market. Constructed on the site of an historic train depot, Capital Market offers visitors free samples of Hall's chocolates made locally. A great place for souvenirs, the Market offers a wide range of West Virginia products ranging from rock candy to biscuit mix and books written on topics of local interest.

#### Getting Around

In light of limited hotel space in Charleston, the city offers free shuttle service to some outlying hotels. To find out if shuttle service is offered to your hotel, and for shuttle schedules, check the Civic Center information table in the lower lobby.

If you are driving in from outlying hotels, consider parking at the Civic Center. One time parking is three dollars, and parking passes with in and out privileges are available from the Civic Center ticket office beginning on Monday morning.

## HIGH IMPACT

Some were invited to church by total strangers, while others enjoyed the festivities and free food at a local children's festival. Still others watched as their church building was remodeled. So who are they? They are just a few of the people who were affected yesterday by the Free Will Baptist ministry Impact West Virginia.

Churches from all over the denomination showed up to help make a difference in the city of Charleston and in its outlying communities. A ministry that began two years ago in Birmingham, Impact West Virginia gave Free Will Baptists the chance to lend a hand and give back to the city that will give to us so much over the next four days. As our denomination floods the city, it is hoped that its people will see what Free Will Baptists are all about and that their lives will be positively influenced.

Yesterday, just like the sun made an early start, so did people from churches reaching from Ohio to Texas. After a word of prayer, groups spread out to begin making a difference.

Some were able to hand out tracts and get personal with the people of West Virginia. They were given invitations to local Free Will Baptist churches and instructions on how to reach the community. **(continued on page two)**



## CHARLESTON AT A GLANCE

#### Great Places for a Group to Eat

Shoney's Restaurant, various locations  
Graziano's (Pizza), Capitol Street  
Fifth Quarter, adjacent to the Civic Center  
Bob Evans, various locations  
Food Court, Town Center Mall

#### Five Scenic Spots Within Ten Miles

The State Capitol Grounds (bring a camera)  
Kanawha State Park  
Sunrise Carriage Trail/Mansion  
Little Creek Park  
Riverfront Park Downtown

#### Shopping Stops

Town Center Mall, by the Civic Center  
Kanawha Mall, McCorkle and 57th  
The Shops at Trace Forks, Highway 119 S  
Southridge Center, Highway 119 S

#### Fast, Convenient Food

If you need fast, convenient meals, visit Distinctive Gourmet Food Court in the Convention Center lobby featuring a daily buffet, after-service dessert line, and gourmet coffee. Open Sunday, noon-10:00 p.m., Monday through Wednesday, 7:30 a.m.-10:00 p.m.

The Embassy Suites also features daily Blue Plate Specials for \$9.95 from 4:00-6:30 p.m. After evening services, enjoy "The Sweetest Hour" from 8 p.m.-11 p.m. in the atrium.

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They walked block after block, handing out the invitations, getting to know the people, and sharing Christ's love with them.

One church hosted a festival for children and their families. The church offered inflatable games, live entertainment, and enough food to feed 400. Despite the heat, families turned up en masse for the event and were amazed at the love and generosity the church showed. The day was far from mere fun and games, however.

Master's Men sent out groups to Free Will Baptist churches in the Charleston area to help make a physical difference to their buildings. Walls were rebuilt, floors cleaned, and general appearances improved. The devoted men worked hard to show local Free Will Baptists how grateful we are for their willingness to share their city.

As the day came to a close, the exhausted volunteers wrapped up their duties, and, with God's help, the people of Charleston saw the hearts of our people and the overwhelming love of Christ. We can now look forward to sharing His love in 2009 with the people of Cincinnati. Will you help make an impact?



## CONFERENCE FEATURES WELCH



Well-known pastor and author Dr. Bobby Welch will be the featured speaker at Tuesday morning's Pastors/Laymen Conference. A veteran of nearly forty years in ministry, Dr. Welch is the co-founder of F.A.I.T.H. Evangelism, a Sunday School-based outreach program that now extends to 14 countries, with

materials published in four languages.

The Alabama native will address the conference in the Little Theater of the Charleston Civic Center, Tuesday, 10:00-11:45 p.m.

## FIRST AID FOR EMOTIONAL HURTS

North Carolina pastor and professional counselor Eddie Moody will present three seminars in Room 206 of the Civic Center on Monday to help those who struggle with what to say to those who face a life crisis. Moody earned a Ph.D. from N.C. State University and is a Licensed Professional Counselor. He works with troubled youth in correctional settings and often counsels people in his role as a minister.

10:30 - 11:15 First Aid for Emotional Hurts  
11:30 - 12:15 When Trauma Strikes  
1:45 - 2:45 Addiction Recovery

## CONVENTION SPEAKERS

### Sunday School

**Jim Hutchison** is the choir director and Sunday School Superintendent at Central FWB Church in Huntington, West Virginia. After attending Marshall University, Hutchison was hired by Verizon, where he has worked for the last 30 years. He was honored as the Youth Director of the Year among Free Will Baptists and directed the West Virginia Youth Evangelistic Team for four years.

### Sunday Morning Worship

**Ivan Asbury** pastors Camp Creek FWB Church in Huntington, West Virginia. He served as West Virginia State Moderator for ten years and is currently the chairman of both the Mission Board and the CTS Board. He pastored churches in West Virginia, Indiana, and Mississippi over the course of 20 years before he ended up in Huntington.

### Sunday Evening Worship

**William Smith** of Colquitt, Georgia, holds the positions of Executive Secretary and Treasurer for the Georgia State Association of Free Will Baptists. He graduated from Georgia Bible Institute in 1980, and he returned to his studies in 1988 at Texas A&M University. He worked as a home missionary in Charleston for four years. He is currently on the general board and is the assistant moderator for the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

### Missions Rally

**Troy Bush** is director of church starting for *Embrace Baltimore*, a project with the vision of planting more than 20 new churches. Bush holds a Ph.D. in Missiology and has taught in seminaries and colleges across the United States as well as Eastern Europe. Dr. Bush developed the well known *Love Your Neighbor. Tell Your Story!* The program provides a principled approach to evangelism used successfully by churches of all sizes around the world.

### Monday Evening Worship

**Jim Christian** pastors New Hope Fellowship FWB Church in Cocoa, Florida, where he has ministered for more than 30 years. He studied at Free Will Baptist Bible College and Volunteer State Community College. In the Florida State Association of Free Will Baptists, Christian served on the executive committee and youth board, and was mission chairman for eight years.

### Pastor/Laymen Conference

**Bobby H. Welch** is currently the strategist for Global Evangelical Relations. He was pastor of First Baptist Church in Daytona Beach, Florida, for 32 years and is still being honored there as pastor emeritus. He received a Bachelor of Science at Jacksonville State University, a Master's in Theology at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, and a doctorate at Palm Beach Atlantic University. He has written a dozen books, and in the course of his life, he has spoken in all of the 50 states.

### Tuesday Evening Worship

**W. Stanley Outlaw** pastors Cornerstone FWB Church in Murfreesboro, TN. He graduated from Free Will Baptist Bible College in 1962, and then continued to Bob Jones University, where he received a master's and Ph.D. Outlaw acted as the chairman of the Presbyterian Examining committee for ten years. He also taught at FWBBC for more than 30 years and remains part of the adjunct faculty there.

### Wednesday Evening Worship

**Tim York** pastors Woodbine FWB Church in Nashville, Tennessee. He graduated from Free Will Baptist Bible College in 1982 and later received a Doctorate of Theology from Emmanuel University in 1997. He was pastor of Heritage FWB Church in Ashland, Kentucky for 12 years and served as moderator of the Blue Grass Conference. He also was a candidate for the Kentucky State Senate in 2004 and a cofounder of Two Hearts Pregnancy Crisis Center in 1999. He now serves as moderator for the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

# Bush to Speak at Missions Rally



DR. TROY BUSH WILL BE THE FEATURED SPEAKER for the 2008 Home Missions/ International Missions Convention Rally

According to International Missions Director James Forlines, Bush will address "Reaching Your Jerusalem" as he presents a compelling and practical message to motivate attendees to lead their local churches in reaching their neighbors with the love of Christ.

Bush is the director of church starting for *Embrace Baltimore*, a project with the vision of planting more than 20 new churches. Bush holds a Ph.D. in Missiology and has taught in seminaries and colleges across the United States as well as Eastern Europe.

Larry Powell, general director of Home Missions, says, "Troy's message is an evangelistic strategy everyone can use effectively and enthusiastically. He will inspire you to connect with people in your community and to share your own experience with Christ."

Don't miss this dynamic and informative session, Monday, July 21, 2008, 3:00-5:00 p.m., in the Little Theatre of the Civic Center. The first 500 attendees will receive a free church outreach resource packet.

# UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## General Board to Meet

The General Board meets Monday, July 21 at 8 a.m. in the Grand Ballroom of the Marriott Town Center. General Board members will enjoy a 7 a.m. breakfast in the Hawks Nest, also located in the Marriott Town Center.

## Registration and Exhibits

The exhibit hall will open Monday, July 21, at 3 p.m. Grand Hall South. Registration is open each day 8 a.m.-7 p.m., Upper Lobby of the Civic Center.

## Take the Convention Home

Stop by the Convention Recordings Office (near the Grand Hall South entrance) to pick up a CD, DVD, VHS, or cassette of services and seminars. Each recording contains the complete service including music and speaker. CDs and cassettes are \$5 each; DVD and VHS are \$10 each.

## Low-Priced Parking

One-time parking is available at the Civic Center for three dollars. For long-term parking passes with in and out privileges, visit the Civic Center ticket area starting Monday morning.

## Music Rehearsals

The **Convention Orchestra and Praise Team** will meet on the main stage each day at 4:00 p.m.

Mass Choir rehearsals will be held on the main stage of the Convention Center.

Sunday 5:15 - 6:40/8:40 - 9:30  
Monday 5:30 - 6:40/8:40 - 9:30  
Tuesday 5:45 - 6:40/8:40 - 9:30  
Wednesday 4:30 - 5:30

**Disclaimer:** The annual meeting of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, Inc. is a private, religious gathering and reserves the right to limit attendance to delegates and guests and will take legal recourse against disruptive persons. For security reasons, all parcels are subject to inspection.

## Keep Walking!

As tempting as it might be to stop and talk at the base of the escalators in the Civic Center Lobby, keep walking! Clustering at the base of the escalators causes dangerous conditions for those descending behind you. Please be courteous to your fellow convention-goers.