

The

PLUMBLINE

a publication of Virginia Free Will Baptists

March - April 2014

Image courtesy of Fredrico Stevanin/FreeDigitalPhotos.net

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TRYING A NEW FORMAT

Okay, it's not "rocket science" to see that we're trying a new format for *The Plumblin*e. This approach not only uses this "one-page" design but also, I plan to send it out every two months. This will also allow for time-sensitive information to get out more readily. The production cost and postage for this approach will be less than the larger edition sent out quarterly. Please let us know what you think.

Please let others know that they may access *The Plumblin*e online at www.vafwb.org.

NORTHERN VIRGINIA FWB 3RD ANNUAL MINISTER'S RETREAT MARCH 14-15

Rev. James McComas will be the guest speaker at the 2014 Minister's Retreat. Brother McComas is the Director of Church Revitalization for FWB Home Missions.

The retreat will be at Camp Rapidan Baptist Camp in Rochelle, VA. The cost is only \$50 and includes three meals, snacks/refreshments, and lodging. Attendees will need to bring personal items and bedding/sleeping bags.

Camp Rapidan Baptist Camp
559 Baptist Camp Dr.
Rochelle, VA

Only \$50

(Includes 3 meals, snacks/
refreshments, and lodging)
****You will need personal
items and bedding/sleeping
bag.**



Rev. James McComas

Send To: Bob Brown
12500 Chewning Ln. Fredericksburg, VA 22407
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540-786-7445 Church Office

**** Skeet Shooting** – weather permitting (bring shotguns if you have them).

SEND THE FOLLOWING FOR REGISTRATION

Name, Ministry, Church, Address, Contact Number, Number in your church group.

STATE CONVENTION INFORMATION

As a reminder, the Virginia State Association Meeting will be held at Shiloh Free Will Baptist Church, Bristol, Virginia, June 12-13. The following will provide information concerning motels. The best negotiated deal we've been able to find nearest the church is below. This motel is 5.7 miles from the church, on Exit 7 of Interstate 81.

QUALITY INN & SUITES
131 BRISTOL EAST ROAD
BRISTOL, VA 24202
Phone: 276-669-8164
Bookings available for the nights of Wednesday & Thursday, June 11 & 12
Deadline for Bookings: May 28
Price: \$80.01 (taxes included)

In order to book a room here for the price quoted, you will need to tell them that you are with the Virginia Free Will Baptist group. We have 20 rooms blocked: ten of them doubles and ten of them Queen Suites. The Queen Suite has a queen bed, desk & chair, couch, coffee table, counter with sink, and dining table and chairs. Their breakfast is mostly cereals, Danishes, bagels, and toast.

This motel is basic, but more "high-end" motels range from \$129.00 - \$160.00 per night. I have stayed in a Queen Suite here, and it was fine for me. Although the breakfast was less than provided in other places, it was sufficient. The staff both when I stayed there and when I talked to the manager about this booking were quite pleasant and helpful. On this same exit is a Holiday Inn Express (around the \$129.00 price, but it is booking more quickly) and Courtyard Marriott (even more pricey).

DEADLINE FOR BOOKING: The Quality Inn & Suites will take bookings from us until the end of the day, May 28. Please be advised that there is a major drag race coming to Bristol on June 13 - 14. Although the race will come at the end of our conference, motels are already being booked for the 12th by people coming early to the race. Whatever you do in booking a motel, I suggest that you not wait too long.

EXIT 7 RESTAURANTS: The exit for the Quality Inn & Suites Motel has a number of restaurants available. Right across the street from the motel (able to walk there) is a Perkins. At this exit there are also the following: Cheddars, iHop, Cracker Barrel, Chick-fil-A, Wendy's, Golden Coral, Chili's, Logan's, WalMart, O'Charley's, Ruby Tuesday, Red Lobster, Outback, Kobe Japanese Steakhouse, and Pizza Hut.

Missionary of the Month Videos

Everyone has the opportunity now to keep up with the latest information from our Virginia missionaries through the "Missionary of the Month Videos." These are posted on the state website (vafwb.org). The latest one is on the home page, and the archived videos can be found by clicking the "information" tab on the website. These are also available to play in church services.

DETERMINING THE WILL OF GOD

by Bruce Barnes

Over the years, I have been asked numerous times, “How can one determine the will of God in matters?” It is a crucial question that deserves an answer because of where the chosen pathway will end. Of course, the method for determining God’s will has to be more than merely doing what we alone “feel” is best. “There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death” (Prov. 16:25).

When I was taking a pastoral class in graduate school, the professor—Dr. Richard Rupp—became very passionate on the point of discerning God’s will. His advice and suggested procedure has driven practically every decision for me from that day to this. I have experienced the value this advice has provided for me personally, and I’ve seen it work for hundreds of other young Christians with whom I have shared it. My paraphrase of his points is this: 1) Only accept what is Scripturally right; 2) Only enter doors which God has opened; 3) Only move when the peace of God fills the heart.

Not only are the points valid, but the order is vital. God has given us the Bible to know what is right and wrong; consequently, we can’t expect to find the direction of the Spirit in particular areas when we are knowingly disobedient to the expressed will of God in His Word. Once we’re aligned with God’s will in the Word, God will reveal His guided pathway by the doors of opportunity He opens. He Who knows the past, present, and future perfectly knows where He wants us and how we are to accomplish what He wants. We can too easily be misguided when we push to open doors that we want or that we convince ourselves is good for us and our futures. If we are pushing on self-determined doors, we will find ourselves ultimately in a room of despair, despondency, and depression because that place will be no better than we can make it. However, when allowing God to bring His will before us, we can rest in His knowledge and care within the place of His choosing. When these things are in place, we can then seek the peace of God to go through the doors that are Scripturally right. Sometimes, a certain thing might be right, and a door opened not by our manipulation; however, the peace of God is simply not there to move through that door. That is when one needs to slow down and back away looking for the peace of God.

To get these things out of order would be to mix up everything in life. To go through a door that is biblically forbidden is obviously to be out of the will of God and to be disobedient. To go through the door hoping that God will show it to be okay biblically is to be out of the will of God and to be presumptuous. To say that one has “peace about a matter” but has not considered what God is doing or what His Word says about it specifically is to go down the pathway of self-determination, and that is sinful.

May God help us use the wisdom found in His Word and through His Spirit to know His leadership. “The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way” (Ps. 37:23). “Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths” (Prov. 3:5-6).



Thank You for Your “Fast-Snacker” Support!

Since this past June, many have signed up to “fast” a snack weekly and support the promotional office. Each of you are making a difference, but we need for many others to “fast” along with us. The goal is to get 350 people across Virginia to sign up for this program of support. Would you be 1 of 350 to help us reach this goal? Truly, we need you!



\$10.00 Monthly

Sign up online or contact Brother Barnes directly. See contact information on the other side of this page.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **MARCH 3:** All Boards Meeting, Free Will Baptist Church of Roanoke
- **MARCH 9:** The promotional director is preaching the AM Service at Park Lane FWB Church, Charlottesville; Rev. Don Hellms is the pastor.
- **MARCH 9-12:** Revival at Great Bridge FWB Church, Chesapeake; Rev. Gene Williams preaching; Rev. Hal Jones is the pastor.
- **MARCH 14:** John Wheeler: Southwestern Quarterly Meeting
- **MARCH 14-15:** NORVA Pastor’s Retreat (see the front page for more info.)
- **MARCH 22:** Sunday School Seminars by the promotional director, John Wheeler: Southwestern at Shiloh FWB Church, Bristol; 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.; lunch is provided.
- **MARCH 23:** The promotional director is preaching the AM service at Shiloh FWB Church, Bristol (Dr. Rodger Castle is the pastor), and the PM service at First FWB Church, Bristol (Rev. David Mizelle is the pastor).
- **MARCH 30:** The promotional director is preaching the AM and PM services at Great Bridge FWB Church, Chesapeake. Hal Jones is the pastor.
- **APRIL 5:** Midway Quarterly Conference at Bishop Memorial FWB Church.
- **APRIL 6:** The promotional director is preaching the AM service at Grace FWB Church, Louisa; Rev. John Austin is the pastor.
- **APRIL 7:** Tidewater Minister’s Conference at Providence FWB Church, Hampton.
- **APRIL 12:** Tidewater Association Meeting; Central Virginia Conference at Charity FWB Church, Bassett; Southwestern Virginia Association: East Wise County Quarterly Conference at Central FWB Church, Norton.
- **APRIL 19:** Southwest Virginia Association: Lee County Quarterly Conference; Clinch Valley Association: Sun-bright Quarterly Meeting.