

# THE PLUMBLINE

a publication of the Virginia State Association of Free Will Baptists

2022 Virginia State Meeting Planned



*Dr. Robert Picirilli*  
June 16, 11:00 AM  
*"The Church and the Shepherds"*



*Rev. Jamie Lane*  
June 16, 1:00 PM  
*"The Church and the Savior"*



*Dr. Bruce Barnes*  
June 16, 2:00 PM  
*Seminar: Grace Mission Ministries*



*Dr. Eddie Moody*  
June 16, 7:00 PM  
*"The Church and the Sinner"*



*Rev. Jim McComas*  
June 17, 11:00 AM  
*"The Church and the Saints"*

The VAFWB executive board met this week to hear reports from the various state representatives as well as plan this year's meeting. The board discussed and settled on this theme and these speakers.

## "I Will Build My Church"

**June 16-17, 2022**

### **New London Church**

(Formerly King of Kings FWB Church, Forest, VA)

Pastor Brandon Baber  
12371 E Lynchburg  
Salem Turnpike  
Forest, VA 24551

Attendees will be able to find motels in the Lynchburg, VA, area which is about eight miles from the church. We recommend beginning your search for the accommodations of your choice early rather than later.

# UPON WHAT FOUNDATION?

Part 2

D. Bruce Barnes  
Promotional Director

Last week's article addressed the foundation that Christ and His Word must have in one's personal life. This article emphasizes the importance of the proper foundation upon which any work of God must be founded. The general idea is expressed in Psalm 127:1a, "Except the LORD build the house, They labour in vain that build it:" On what foundation, then, should ministries rest if the Lord is the one building it?

## ON THE WORD OF GOD AND BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES

I would think this is without question because God's will for everything is laid out in His Word. It is most certainly dealt with in principle if it's not expressed forthrightly. Whether through direct precept or general principle, no work for God will have His blessing except following His expressed will and purpose written in the Scriptures.

### What about people who have great insight?

There's no doubt that many men and women have a great understanding and even inspiring ideas. However, unless such thoughts and actions are compatible with Scripture, such genius rises no higher than the flesh from which it is conceived. Yes, those things might appear significantly used, but the unction that moves them is not from God's Spirit. God will not bless that which contradicts His will in Scripture. The Lord can't sanctify disobedience.

### What about successful business methods?

In truth, some business models operate without contradicting biblical principles; the functions are not based on Scripture but are not in conflict with it. It would seem understandable and allowable to incorporate these if so led by the Spirit. But keep in mind that many business approaches lead companies to success; however, God's work does not operate for the same purposes. The bottom line of worldly practices does not measure the church's success. Christ is not building a company but a Christian community, His church. The Lord is about bringing people to redemption and having a relationship with them. Secular companies look more to the bottom line of financial growth. But God desires to accomplish far different outcomes than secular businesses.

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### ***Cont'd., Upon What Foundation?***

#### What about current religious movements that are successful?

God's work is not built on what appears to be successful in other churches or ministries. Sometimes, upon closer examination, what some might consider success comes actually from compromise. And that is not from God's blessing on it.

An idea sometimes floated is that the best approach for seeing success in Christian ministry is to find what "God is blessing" and begin doing the same thing. I've heard this attitude commended multiple times over the years, and I've witnessed it happen even more through how some pursue ministry. But how do you know what God is blessing? Is it just the number of people that some techniques bring in? Is it that which feels good or is socially comfortable? None of these are biblically foundational to what God considers spiritually successful. The way to discover what God blesses is not putting a finger to the wind to see which way it's blowing at the moment. Instead, it is standing solidly on Biblical principles given in God's Word, awaiting His blessing in His timing.

Various religious movements worldwide grow in number. Still, such does not mean they have God's pleasure and blessing in what they do. We can all too easily be fooled to think that visual success is spiritual success. But that is not the measuring stick for God. The Lord knows how He wants to build His church, and He's provided that way in His Word. Disregarding what God says to help Him be more successful in the world is foolish thinking.

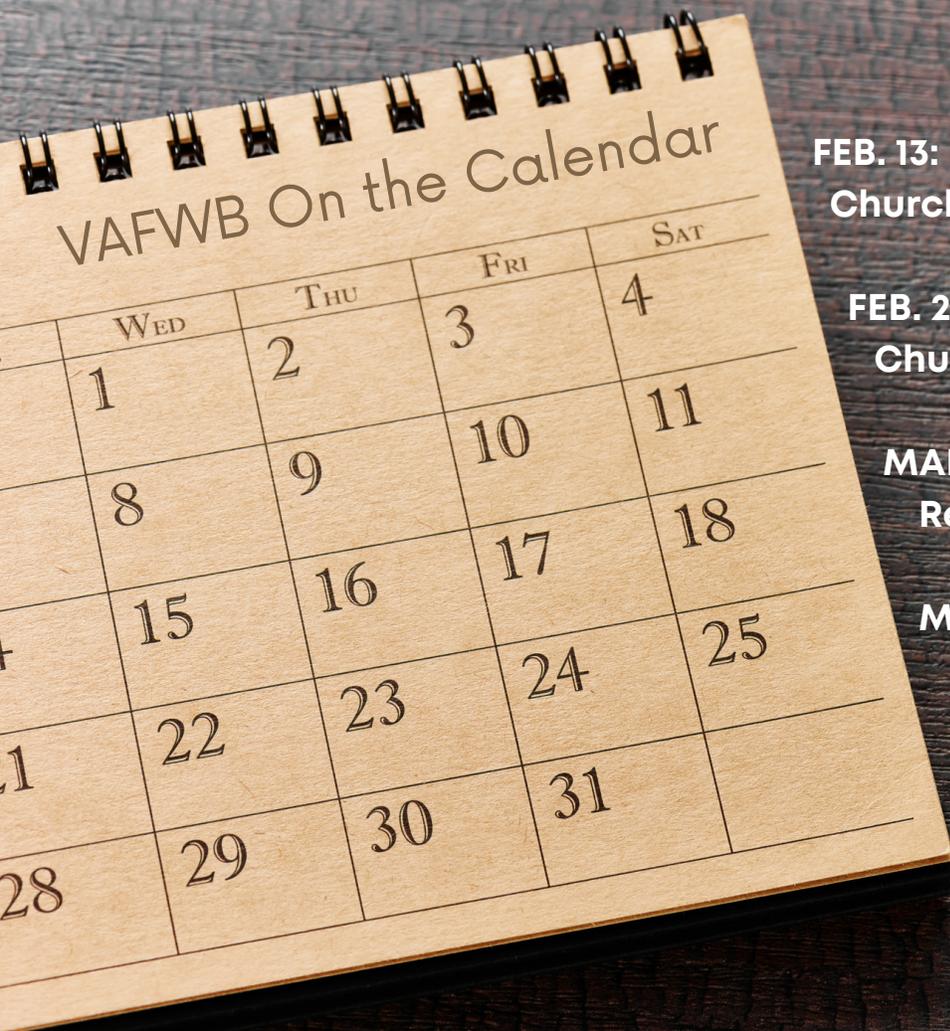
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God's blessing on ministry is not faddish: something popular among the populace but ever-changing with the currents of social tides. It is solidly based on something much more substantial. Please understand the application. This is not to say that all things new are wrong and that the church should not relate to present culture. However, the modern social culture does not dictate God's spiritual blessing.

For example, the Jews at the time of Malachi were giving sacrifices to God, but not according to God's instructions. His response was, "Ye said also, Behold, what a weariness is it! and ye have snuffed at it, saith the LORD of hosts; and ye brought that which was torn, and the lame, and the sick; thus ye brought an offering: should I accept this of your hand? saith the LORD" (Malachi 1:13).

In other words, your ritual is not acceptable only because it appears to be religious. Regardless of the worship style chosen, God's approval of it is based on obedience to worship that is completed "in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24). What we do in worship and ministry is carefully designed for us biblically. So must we be diligent in completing that design in our approaches to ministry.

*Next week's article, Part 3, will continue this emphasis by noting another foundational principle in building God's work.*



**FEB. 13: PR-DIR. at Great Bridge FWB Church, Chesapeake, VA, AM Service**

**FEB. 20: PR-DIR. at First FWB Church, Richmond, VA, AM Service**

**MARCH 4-5: Northern Virginia Teen Retreat at Rapidan Baptist Camp**

**MARCH 5: Tidewater Association Annual Meeting**



## **NORTHERN VIRGINIA MEN'S RETREAT MARCH 18-19, 2022**

Jim McComas is this year's special speaker. Make plans now to attend.

To register and get more information, contact Paul Collins at (540) 271-2074.

**RAPIDAN BAPTIST CAMP  
559 BAPTIST CAMP DR.  
ROCHELLE, VA 22738**