

NAFWB NEWS

2022 FREE WILL BAPTIST NATIONAL CONVENTION

SUNDAY, JULY 24, 2022 | BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA | WWW.NAFWB.ORG

BACK TO BIRMINGHAM

Birmingham has grown significantly since Free Will Baptists last visited the city in 2006. Although it hosts large events like the 2022 World Games, which brought 60,000 people to the city last week, it retains the charm and character of a southern small town steeped in history.

The city is home to *Southern Living*, one of the most successful regional magazines in the country, in production since 1966. Mary Anderson, inventor of the windshield wiper, also called Birmingham home.

Although the city is a place of heritage and history, it is always ready for new adventures and excitement. That's a good thing. Get ready, Birmingham! The 2022 convention has arrived to make things exciting.

Located a short drive from the convention complex is one of the original baseball fields, Rickwood Field. This stadium witnessed legends Babe Ruth, Jackie Robinson, and Willie Mays, among others. Built in 1910, Rickwood Field is the oldest professional baseball field in the U.S. You can explore the field and other unique attractions in the Greater Birmingham area including Alabama Peanut Company, Birmingham Public Library, Birmingham Zoo, American Village (colonial town), TopGolf, and Moss Rock Preserve.

The Pizitz Food Hall boasts a dozen food vendors offering a variety of tasty dishes. Tacos, tea, poke bowls, wings, ice cream, and much more can be savored here. Be sure to check out local favorite Ashley Mac's, known for fabulous strawberry cakes (made with two pounds of fresh strawberries). For more information, visit www.thepizitz.com/food-hall for a full list of restaurants and local flavors.

On the east side of the Westin hotel you will find Uptown Plaza. The area provides a wide variety of food choices in one location. Options range from Mexican and Brazilian food to burgers, coffee, K+Js Elegant Pastries, and more. To get to Uptown, simply take a left when exiting the convention center and follow the road around to the plaza.

Birmingham puts great emphasis on outdoor green space and recreation. The city has become one of the nation's leaders in the number of greenspace and walkways in the city. Find several parks within a mile of the convention center, including Kelly Ingram Park, Linn Park, and Guglielmo Marconi Park.

Kelly Ingram Park includes four acres of land with a memorial area dedicated to civil rights. Linn Park is a seven-acre recreational part that is located in downtown and is a great place to spend time with friends and family. If you are looking for a convenient local space to exercise, find running and walking paths located in CityWalk Birmingham beneath the raised I-20 and I-59 bridges.

About the Writer: Tori Matlock graduated from Welch College in 2019. She and her husband Cody attend Beulah FWB Church in Pensacola, Florida, where they teach Sunday School for grades 1-5.

BEANS & BITES

Looking for a good cup of coffee or a quick bite to eat? Use this handy list to satisfy your crew's cravings:

BEANS

- + June Coffee (Closed Monday & Tuesday) 213 25th St N
- + Edgar's Bakery 505 20th St N
- + Red Cat Coffee House 1701 First Ave S
- + 2101 Café 2101 Fifth Ave N

BITES

- + Jimmy Johns 323 20th St N
- + Chick-fil-A (7am-2:30pm) 1913 Fifth Ave N
- + Chick-fil-A (closes at 10pm) 625 19th St. S
- + Subway (across from convention center) 2105 Richard Arrington Blvd N
- + Subway 1909 Fifth Ave N
- + Zoës Kitchen 1819 5th Ave N
- + Cook Out 301 24th St S

Meet the Speakers

Rett Floyd teaches eighth-grade history at East Clarendon Middle and High School in Turbeville, South Carolina. A former district teacher of the year, he has coached Academic Challenge for more than two decades. Floyd is a 1984 graduate of Welch College and earned a M.Ed. from Frances Marion College. He and his wife Tina are active members of Horse Branch FWB Church and have three children: Ashley, Maysey, and Bayley.

Chris Todd is executive secretary of the South Carolina State Association and owner of Covenant Contracting. He graduated from Andersonville Theological Seminary with a degree in biblical studies and earned a business degree from Florence-Darlington Technical College. He has served on the NAFWB Executive Committee since 2020 and as a member of the General Board since 2014. He coordinates South Carolina Disaster Relief and has served terms on the South Carolina Home Missions Board and the Friends of India Board. He and his wife Misty attend Horse Branch FWB Church in Turbeville, South Carolina.

U.S. Air Force veteran **Tim Baumgarten** has pastored Northport FWB Church for 20 years. A graduate of Southeastern FWB College, Tim has served on the Alabama State Missions Board, Alabama Executive Committee, Alabama Children's Home Board, and as moderator of the Progressive Association. Tim and his wife Rosey have additionally ministered in churches in Selma and Fayette, Alabama.

How Well Do You Know Your Community?

When I was dating my wife Lynne, I studied everything about her. I wanted to know her favorite color, flower, clothes—even sports team. I suspect you have behaved similarly. You have to *know* someone if you are going to love them; that is what enables you to have a better relationship with them and meet their needs.

Scripture commands believers to love our neighbors, and we can better love our neighbors by learning more about the communities surrounding our churches. The Executive Office is excited to share a resource to help churches do just that. **Through our partnership with Church Answers**, your church can receive a personalized “Know Your Community Report” providing all kinds of information about your church’s community.

This report offers detailed demographics and information regarding the community surrounding your church. For example, you will learn the exact population, the marital status, age profiles, ethnic groups, and economic challenges facing your area. Find out how much people in your community spend on healthcare, the hobbies they enjoy, and much more. Depending on your preference, the report provides information based on data from a five, ten, fifteen or twenty-minute drive from your church.

Here is how it works. Churches interested in the Know Your Community Report can send an email to questions@nafwb.org with church name, address, and preference on the drive time for report. After submitting that information to Church Answers, a report will be created specifically for your church. The report costs \$100, so please send a check to the NAFWB office.

However, knowing all the details about another person is of no value, if we do not act on the information. The Know Your Community Report can be overwhelming. So, we present the report to the pastor and church leaders via Zoom. After presenting the information, we email the report, presentation, and Excel files comparing their results to other Free Will Baptist churches whose reports were completed previously.

This allows each church to better understand and digest the information and compare their results with churches



in similar communities. We also provide the option to hold a second meeting with a larger group from the church to review the report findings.

I can’t help but think of Paul’s writing in 1 Corinthians 9. We look for ways to approach and interact with others to reach them with the gospel most effectively.

In the fall, the Executive Office will launch Zoom meetings between churches with similar results to provide an opportunity for them to discuss ways to reach their communities. It can be encouraging and empowering to discuss ways to reach these groups with other churches and leaders with communities similar to your own.

That is the power of the Know Your Community process. You not only know your own community better, but you learn from other churches with similar communities and collaborate with them to help you reach your own. If you are interested in learning more, please stop by the Executive Office exhibit or email questions@nafwb.org.

About the writer: Eddie Moody is executive secretary of the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

IMPORTANT UPDATE

Seminars will be held in BJCC North Rooms C-H. They can be accessed through East Hall 1. Security will be available to direct people through the hall.

Please do not stop at exhibits until the hall opens Monday, 3 pm. We appreciate your cooperation with this request.



News, Updates & Announcements

General Board to Meet

General Board will meet Monday, July 25, 8:00 a.m. in BJCC Forum E.

Registration and Exhibits

Registration is open daily from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., in the BJCC Main Level Lobby of the BJCC. The Exhibit Hall opens Monday, July 25, 3:00 p.m. in BJCC East Hall 1.

Laughter and Latté

Join WNAC for this ticketed event, Monday, July 25, 8:30 p.m., in BJCC Ballroom B.

Youth Evangelistic Team Program

Watch the 2022 YET program: Sheraton, Birmingham Ballroom, Monday July 25, 9:00 p.m.

ETEAM Alumni Reception

Open to all current and former ETEAM participants and leaders: Monday, 9:00 p.m., BJCC Forum J.

Convention Choir Rehearsal

The Convention Choir will rehearse on the Main Stage at 5:30 p.m., Sunday through Tuesday, 5:00 p.m. Wednesday.

SCHEDULE UPDATES

+ **Welch College Board Breakfast** will be held Monday, 7:00 a.m., Westin Hotel Camellia Room (1st floor).

+ **FWB Foundation Board Lunch** will be held Monday at noon in the Westin Hotel Camellia Room (1st floor).

FOR YOUR SAFETY

Though fun, friendly, and welcoming, Birmingham is a large, metropolitan area. Be aware of surroundings and avoid walking alone. If you encounter a civil disturbance, avoid confrontation and notify convention officials or security. Please refer to **page 2 of the Program** for additional emergency and safety procedures.