



Home

# HAPPENINGS

A Ministry of the Free Will Baptist Children's Home

July / August 2017

"Providing a *Loving* Home  
for *Hurting* Children."

## Firsts

The "firsts" of anything are always exciting, aren't they? Our recent trip to The Wilds was a wonderful experience from the very beginning! We took 18 of our children with us, 16 of whom this was their first time at The Wilds. They were excited from the outset. You see, many of them had never been to camp. Many had never been on a long, eight-hour trip (yes, we heard "How much longer?" several times). Some had never seen tall mountains like the Blue Ridge Mountains. Some had never even left the state of Alabama. So it was with much anticipation of the "firsts" that we left for North Carolina before dawn on a Monday morning.



Upon arrival, they were not disappointed. The lake and the picturesque setting was the first thing they saw at this premier Christian camp. The kids' excitement never waned the whole week as they experienced more "firsts"! They had an absolute blast at the lake, the zip lines, the giant swing, tubing, the craft shop, and Cool Beans. There was good food and plenty of it, games, activities, and lots of laughter. All those elements are just a platform to share the gospel of Jesus Christ to the thousand juniors and teens attending that week.



The preaching was powerful and direct, but with compassion. In all the years we have been attending, I don't recall a time when literally three-fourths of the teens went outside to speak with counselors. So many responded on Tuesday night that except for the sponsors, there were no other adults in the auditorium. Hundreds were outside receiving the Good News!

Junior Camp had the same goal – present the gospel with love in a way that related to the young campers on their level. The staff used fun games and skits to keep the kids' attention while throughout Biblical truths were being shared.

Some of those making decisions were our kids. In fact, six trusted Christ as Savior! Some made purity pledges, some recommitted their life to living for Jesus, and two said "yes" to full time Christian service if that is what God wants for their life.

What an awesome and amazing week it was! As an adult, I was so thrilled and inspired to have witnessed that many kids still willing to hear and answer the call of God unashamedly! You could say we came back the same – with excitement. However, you must also say we returned differently, because we had been touched and challenged by God. We were exhausted, but enthused! Praise the Lord for all that was accomplished that week.

Pray that our kids will stay true to the commitments they made at camp. For those who made it possible for them to go... a big THANK YOU. You played a part in decisions that will affect these children for time and eternity.

Lynn Davis



## Purpose

Free Will Baptist Children's Home is a ministry of the Alabama State Association of FWB's. As a non-profit organization, FWBCH provides a loving, home-like, Christian atmosphere for children struggling with life's challenges and turbulent domestic situations. Our task is to help children hurt by life to find faith in God and enter adulthood as responsible Christian men and women with a purpose in life.

The FWB Children's Home Newsletter is published six times per year to keep friends informed of current activities, programs, and service. If you have any questions, suggestions, or comments, please contact us:



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FWBCH does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, nationality, or ethnic origin.

## Board of Directors

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## DIRECTOR'S DESK Mandy Mitchell

We love summertime at the Children's Home. The children are able to enjoy lots of swimming, fishing, never-ending softball games, sleeping in and going to bed later, vacations, and best for the kids – no school. The staff sees summer as an opportunity to have more influence on our residents since they are on campus 24/7. It is a chance for the house parents to be able to really invest in each of the children's lives and make deeper connections with them. One of the things we hope to pass along to our kids is how a relationship with the Lord can benefit them in the same way it benefits us every day. We have constant opportunities to teach practical Biblical principles to children who have very little knowledge about what it means to be a Christian.



One of the biggest highlights of our summer are the two church camps our children have the opportunity to attend. The first week of June, 18 of our children were able to attend The Wilds church camp in North Carolina. The kids look forward to it every year as there are so many exciting things to do there and wonderful Bible teaching and preaching. This year eight of our residents accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior while at The Wilds. I wanted to share a story passed along from one of our resident's counselors:

One of our 10-year-old girl's counselor said that she was walking with this young lady back from an activity. The young lady told her counselor that she wanted to get saved. The counselor told her that as soon as they got back to their cabin they would talk more about it. The young lady replied "No, you don't understand I want to get saved now!" Immediately the counselor then led her from the group to a quiet place where they could talk and pray.

This story tugs my heart as I think about the excitement and immediacy that this young girl felt in accepting Christ as her Savior. The rest of the staff and I are so blessed and amazed that we can provide these opportunities for our residents. Opportunities for them to make the best decision of their lives – to choose Christ. Our residents have the opportunity to attend our local camp later this month. Please pray with us that the Lord would work in the lives of our residents.

*Mandy*

1947-2017  
**70**  
Years

## 70th Anniversary Celebration

This year marks the 70th anniversary of ministry at the Free Will Baptist Children's Home. It was 1947 when the Home opened its doors to provide a loving home for children who were in need. Seventy years later, over 1,000 children have lived on this property which God has graciously given us. Though their circumstances have been varied, the residents have one thing in common – the Home was here for them as a place of safety and love.



To commemorate the 70 years, the Home hosted a celebration day on June 17. The day was a time of remembrance, reunion, and rejoicing. Former residents, previous staff members, and friends of the Home joined the present residents and staff for the event. While the young people enjoyed fun in the Faith Activity Center, the adults spent time talking and sharing in the Lambert Building. Hamburgers, hot dogs, and ice cream were available for all. Memories and expressions of gratitude were spoken often.

Thank the Lord for this milestone – 70 years! May this ministry continue its important role until Jesus returns.



## Memorial Gifts

Below are memorial contributions from May/June 2017. We thank all those who honor their loved ones in this special way.

### IN MEMORY

Ruthie Harbin

Hudson Michael Morrison  
Mrs. Lindy Brannon Alexander

Mollie Warren  
Kathy Green  
Kay Ball

Susan Peoples  
Lester Shadix

Linda Henderson

Rev. W. E. "Bill" Brown

Ronald Edwin Harper  
Billy G. Hinds

Carey Pickett

Jack Christian

Mrs. Gay Hartley

Mike Gilbreath

L. C. Gilbreath

J. A. Thomas

Mr. Jesse O. Stephenson

Carlton Lambert

Joanne Bell

### IN HONOR

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Rev. & Mrs. Bill F. Wilson

PFC David Shriver Winchester, Jr.

C. P. Culpepper

L. P. Taylor

Odell & Marie Woods

Betty Lambert

### DONOR

Jerry & Betty Atkins

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Sue Spain

Frankie Henslee

### DONOR

Cheryl Webb

Charlotte Shadix

David & Joy Winchester

Earl & Loretta Culpepper

Bobby & Betty Sargent

Sue Spain

You may pay tribute to your loved one with a donation in their honor. Please include with your gift the information needed to notify the family. Recognition will also appear in the upcoming newsletter.

## Items Needed

Mayonnaise

Pickles/olives

Jelly

Oatmeal - instant

Cereal/Pop-Tarts

Canned carrots

Chips

Crackers (Saltines/Ritz)

Peanut butter crackers

Drinks

Chicken broth

Tomato sauce

Peaches

Gravy mixes

Taco seasoning

Toilet tissue/Kleenex

Bathroom cleaners

Clorox

Laundry detergent

Dryer sheets

Pine-Sol

Styro plates/16 oz. cups

Batteries AA/AAA

Vinegar

Canned chicken/tuna

Pancake mix/syrup

Cooking oil

Salad dressings

Cranberry sauce

Snack cakes

Cheese/crackers

Juices/Gatorade

Bread crumbs

Bisquick

Diced tomatoes

Cake mixes

Yellow rice

Spaghetti/chili seasoning

Brooms/mops

Windex/furniture polish

Garbage bags (13/33 gal)

Fabric softener

Dishwasher detergent

Paper towels

Plastic forks/spoons

Bath towels/washcloths

# Opportunities for Ministry

The Home is seeking to fill the following positions:

**COUNSELOR/ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR** – Candidates must be a licensed counselor with appropriate education credentials. Two years minimum experience preferred.

**HOUSE PARENTS** – Applicants must be spiritually mature and have a heart for children. Experience in raising children is desired. Anyone interested in either position should contact Amanda Mitchell at (205) 924-9751 for more information.

## Birthdays

Deanna 7-14-04  
Ty 7-23-05  
Haley 8-12-04  
Cason 8-19-09  
Jessalyn 8-28-05  
Danny 8-31-05

*Happy Birthday!*  
Hope you have a special day.

## Honor Roll

Justin Marcus  
Kaylynn Kaya  
Caden Lexie  
Shaylan Danny  
Devon

*Great Work!*  
We are proud of you.



Please Visit Us  
Website: [www.fwbhome.org](http://www.fwbhome.org)  
Facebook: Alabama FWB Children's Home  
E-mail us at: [admin@fwbhome.org](mailto:admin@fwbhome.org)

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