

# CONVENTION NEWS

## 2023 FREE WILL BAPTIST NATIONAL CONVENTION

SUNDAY, JULY 16, 2023 | RALEIGH, NC | WWW.NAFWB.ORG

# RETURN TO RALEIGH

Raleigh—the capital of North Carolina, the home of a variety of museums, and the gathering point of home cooking, soul food, BBQ, and Asian cuisine—has much to offer Free Will Baptists. Raleigh has 40 free historic attraction and/or museums throughout the city. Three include: **North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences** ([naturalsciences.org](http://naturalsciences.org)), **North Carolina Museum of History** ([ncmuseumofhistory.org](http://ncmuseumofhistory.org)), and the **City of Raleigh Museum** ([raleighnc.gov/parks/places/city-raleigh-museum](http://raleighnc.gov/parks/places/city-raleigh-museum)).

One unforgettable destination in the City Center is a restaurant called **A Place at the Table** (300 W Hargett). At this restaurant, people can work an hour in exchange for a meal, pay the suggested price (or more to help pay for someone else), or simply pay what they can.

The unique non-profit makes it possible for a wide variety of people to enjoy a professionally prepared, delicious meal. At least 80 people volunteer their time every week. Beth, one of the regular volunteers says, “It is our mission to make a good meal available for everyone—no matter who they are!” Take advantage of this unique opportunity to enjoy great food while helping others.

Another unique Raleigh eatery is **Carroll’s Kitchen**, which gives women overcoming trauma a place to work, learn new skills, and re-enter the community. Carroll’s has already helped 26 women from Raleigh.

## BITES & BEANS

The Raleigh area is known for great food, coffee, and North Carolina barbecue. Local businessman Jake Massey shares: “That may be the greatest thing about living in the Triangle! So much good food!” Enjoy these tasty offerings.\*

### BITES

#### Fast Food

- + **Subway**, 234 Fayetteville St (7 am - 10 pm)
- + **Jimmy Johns**, 437 Fayetteville St (10:30 am - 7 pm)
- + **McDonalds**, 105 E South St (5 am - midnight)
- + **Shish Kabob**, 438 Fayetteville St (10:30 am - 3 pm)
- + **Fire Wok**, 442 Fayetteville St (11am-8:30pm)

#### Café and Brunch

- + **Carroll’s Kitchen**, 19 E Martin St
- + **Happy+Hale**, 443 Fayetteville St

**Special Notice:** You’ll notice some attendees wearing red lanyards and nametags this year. That is because they are from areas of the world that require “creative access” to share the gospel. **Please refrain from taking or posting photos online of anyone wearing a red lanyard** as a precaution for their safety and the safeguarding of their ministries around the world.

### Multi-Food Options

- + **Transfer Co Food Hall**: 500 E Davie St
- + **Morgan St Food Hall**: 411 W Morgan St

### Unique Options

- + **Pizza Times**: 210 S Wilmington St
- + **A Place at the Table**: 300 W Hargett St

### BEANS

You will find many options for coffee this year; consider a few near the Raleigh Convention Center:

- + **Union Special**: 401 Fayetteville St #103
- + **Lucette Grace**: 235 S Salisbury St
- + **Starbucks**: 500 Fayetteville St (Marriot Lobby)
- + **Crema**: 421 Fayetteville St

**About the Writer:** Tori Matlock graduated from Welch College in 2019. She and her husband Cody are moving to Ardmore, Oklahoma, to join the ministry team at Hilltop FWB Church.

*\*The inclusion of a restaurant by the NAFWB staff should not be considered an endorsement. Please use your own discretion.*

## Meet the Speakers

**Sunday School: Bruce Barnes** served many years as the promotional director of the Virginia State Association. He is a wonderful resource for pastors who seek guidance in taking steps to grow their churches. In 1972, Bruce married his high school sweetheart Debbie. They are celebrating 51 wonderful years together this year during the convention.

**Sunday Morning: Butch Taylor** pastors Deep Creek FWB Church (GA), where he has served for 25 years. Butch serves as moderator of Georgia’s Ogeechee Association, a role he has filled for 15 years. He also serves on the Georgia Executive Board and the Georgia Board of Christian Education. He also serves on the board of two nonprofits: Jenkins County Family Enrichment Center and Jenkins County Council of Churches. He and his wife have one daughter and two granddaughters.

**Sunday Evening: Gene Williams** is the senior pastor at Parkers Chapel FWB Church. Gene earned a pastoral theology degree at Southeastern FWB College. He served as the moderator of the North Carolina State Association (2018-2022), and he currently serves on the Board of Directors for Southeastern FWB College, where he also teaches as an adjunct professor. Gene and his wife Leslie have three children: Faith, Grace, and Jonathan.

# AS FOR YOU...Take the Convention Home!

In James 1:25, we are encouraged not to be forgetful hearers. It is my prayer you will remember what you experience this week in Raleigh and put that into practice throughout the year.

In this world turned upside down, let us **Continue in the Word** by focusing upon and teaching Scripture no matter what happens around us. The world is discouraging; may we **Encourage One Another in the Word** by finding ways to support each other and to be good stewards of our ministries. We hope everyone will identify a pastor and his family for whom you could pray. Maybe you could become part of a group that supports others.

May we **Reach With the Word** as the world continues to come to the doorsteps of North America. We encourage you to study and get to know your community and to reach people who are not currently being reached by other churches.



This week, join the **Better Together Scavenger Hunt** for great fun and amazing prizes.

When the exhibits open at 3:00 p.m. Monday, collect and wear lanyard buttons from nine national departments and ministries (Retirement, Executive, Foundation, D6, IM, North American Ministries, ONE Magazine, Welch College, WNAC).

After collecting all nine buttons, visit the Board of Retirement exhibit and register to win one of several great Treasure Chests. (You must have all buttons to enter.) For more information, stop by the Board of Retirement exhibit. **Winners will be announced Wednesday afternoon.**

We also hope to **Teach and Train in the Word**. Could you train youth in Church Training Service, teach a Sunday School or Life Group, start an Awana Club, lead a D-Group, engage in marriage mentoring, start a women's ministry, or develop a ministry to widows or other hurting people at your church?

Lastly, may you **Give Yourself as a Laborer** to reach and train others in the gospel. What is God calling you to do? Are you called to be a missionary, pastor, or teacher? Are you called to start a group? Who are we called to reach with the gospel or train in the Christian faith, and what do we have to give?

I hope your time in Raleigh will be a special time and, as a result, we will work together to turn an upside-down world right side up by hearing the Word and doing the work (Acts 17:6).

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

## AS FOR YOU TAKEAWAYS

### SUNDAY

**Identify a pastor and his wife you will pray for daily.**

**As a church, make plans to support another church by helping with an outreach event or activity like Operation Restoration.**

**Participate in Growing Together.**

**Watch Podcasts from Carolyn Dwyer (Ministry Wives) and Tom Jones (Pastor Counseling and Consultation).**

NAFWB

# News, Updates & Announcements

## General Board to Meet

General Board will meet Monday, July 17, 8:00 a.m. in RCC Hall B.

## Registration and Exhibits

Registration is open daily from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., in the RCC Main Lobby. The Exhibit Hall opens Monday, July 17, 3:00 p.m. in RCC Hall A.

## Laughter and Latté

Join WNAC for this ticketed event, Monday, July 17, 8:30 p.m., in RCC Ballroom C.

## Youth Evangelistic Team Program

Watch the 2022 YET program: RCC Ballroom AB, Monday July 17, 9:00 p.m.

## ETEAM Alumni Reception

Open to all current and former ETEAM participants and leaders: Monday, 9:00 p.m., Sheraton Hannover I & II.

## 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.

## Seminars for Everyone

Take advantage of a wide range of seminars covering every topic from missions and ministry to money and media (and everything between). Seminars start Monday at 9:00 a.m., and run throughout the conference.

## FOR YOUR SAFETY

Though Raleigh is fun, friendly, and welcoming, the city is a large, metropolitan area. Be aware of your surroundings at all times 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 Convention Program** for additional emergency and safety procedures.