



Illinois Free Will Baptist

May 2016

Newsletter

CROSSROADS CHURCH – Effingham

Erma Plummer, a member of our church for 30 years, passed away February 21st. Pastor Hollis preached her funeral. She will be missed.

Our church took an offering for Welch College in Nashville. This is the college where Pastor and Vickie Hollis are alumni.

Mary Altgilbers, Rodney Logue, Pastor and Vickie attended the Illinois State Association Meeting at Calvary Church in Salem.

We celebrated Easter with an early 7:30 service, followed by a wonderful breakfast (and fellowship). Sunday School and morning service followed. The children enjoyed their cross hunts and treat bags were given to them.

Kylee Dandurand accepted Christ as her Savior during her Wednesday night class on March 30th. She will follow in baptism in the near future. Joshua and Katie Dandurand are her parents.

Mary Altgilbers, Robin Crabtree, Kylee Dandurand, Vickie Hollis, Kim Karnes, and Joy King attended the April 2nd WAC meeting in Mt. Vernon. Sister Vickie was the speaker and gave a wonderful message on "Guarding the Heart". Mary had written a poem on guarding the heart and she (Mary) read it to us. Mary has a talent for writing poems. Proverbs 4:23...Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.

Our church will be celebrating 35 years on May 22nd. The Wanda Mountain Boys are scheduled to be with us. Our VBS is scheduled for June 6-10th and we have already started preparations...it will be here before you know it! Our church observed the ordinances of Communion and Feet Washing Sunday Night, April 3rd. It was a real blessing.

Pastor: John Hollis

Reporter: Robin Crabtree

OAK VALLEY CHURCH – Rural Geff

We are very excited about sharing Christ, we go to Brookstone Estates monthly and Cisne Manor quarterly. We also are involved with Hope Ministries Food Pantry each month.

Easter morning we gathered for breakfast and fellowship at 8:00 am, followed by a skit and special music, readings and a word from our God by Brother Richard. After worship service, an egg hunt was enjoyed by the youth, what a joy it was to watch the children.

On April 1st we had a special service, "Don't Be Fooled". We had worship, then Melissa Garrison shared a teaching, afterwards we enjoyed food, fellowship and games.

Several from Oak Valley attended the East Central Quarterly on April 9th at Mt. Vernon 1st FWB Church.

Emily Petty spoke to us on April 3rd and Ben Barcroft was here on April 17th. We pray that these and all the other youth have life changing experiences as they share the gospel with the world.

Coming up on May 7th is our Mother's Day Banquet-Ruby McDowell will speak. Our theme is "Un-tying Your Gifts". The banquet starts at 6:00 pm.

Congratulations go out to Kevin and Laural Mason who became proud parents of a son, Lane Andrew on March 11th. Lawrence and Sherri Pennington are new grandparents, Glen and Shirley Byars are great-grandparents.

"Let everything that has breath praise the Lord." – Psalm 150:6

Pastor: Richard Brown

Reporter: Marie Rutger

Illinois Women Active for Christ State Meeting at New Hope Church – Saturday, May 7th

BLUE POINT CHURCH – Rural Cisne

Brother Ernie and Suzanne attended the Illinois State Association held at the Calvary Church in Salem. Their son, Ryan, represented the National Executive Office in Nashville. They were also able to attend the East Central District meeting held at the First Free Will Baptist Church in Mt. Vernon. Suzanne enjoyed the Emily Malone District meeting of the Women Active of Christ. She was blessed to hear Vickie Hollis speak in the morning.

On Easter Sunday we began our celebration with an 8:00am service with Jamie Lee as our guest speaker, church planter to Champaign, Illinois. His family joined him for the service. We enjoyed donuts and coffee afterwards, then held our regular Sunday School and morning worship service. Our sanctuary was packed and it was nice to have many visitors.

We took two van loads of young people to Mt. Vernon to see “God’s Not Dead 2”. The Cisne High School FFA debate team shared their agricultural debate at one of our Sunday evening services. Several continue to prepare for CTS Competition: our Bible Bowl team, a vocal solo, and a drama.

Several ladies are attending the YOGA class on Saturday mornings and exercise classes a couple of times during the week. The sign denoting our new addition as “The Link” has been installed on the end of the building.

Almost a hundred ladies and girls enjoyed our annual Mother-Daughter Banquet held in the Link. The delicious meal, catered by Mike’s Market, was served by several of the men and teenagers of the church.

We are saddened by the news of the death of Shane Davison’s mother in Arkansas. Shane and Joy came home for over a week to attend the funeral and spend some time with family. Brother Ernie traveled to Arkansas for the visitation and funeral, representing Blue Point and the Illinois Board of Missions.

Pastor: Ernie Lewis

Reporter: Suzanne Lewis

PITTSBURG CHURCH - Pittsburg

Warmer weather is finally on its way!! We are ready! Our services over Resurrection Weekend were Spirit filled as we pray yours were. The Holy Spirit has been ministering and moving through our services quite often recently and bringing healing and changing lives. When the service ends with a vast majority of the congregation at the altar worshipping *Adonai*, it is an amazing place to be. A glimpse of what is to come!

The Christian Creation Apologist we hosted on Sunday, April 3rd was very interesting and informative. If you would like to see the services, you can check them out on our website at www.pittsburgfwb.org. You will find lots of great information to equip yourself and loved ones with concerning the science that backs up creation.

We got an update at our April Business Meeting that work will begin soon on the new roadway around the church and the new sanctuary. Our Youth Building is also nearing completion. Yay!!

The ladies of the church are preparing for the upcoming Women’s Banquet that will be held Mother’s Day weekend. It is always a great time of fellowship, fun, and food!

Our kiddos are starting to get excited that it is almost time for Camp Hope! They love going and spending time with their fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. Hard to believe it is already that time of year again!

This year, for the first time in a long time, we have 3 young people preparing to participate in the competition that will be held at Ina Church at the end of April. They are working hard and looking forward to attending. Our church is also looking forward to participating in this event and others in the upcoming years.

Prayers for all of the graduates (we have quite a few) and their families, and teachers (we have quite a few of these as well) as summer is fast approaching and new chapters in their lives are beginning. Prayers for guidance, obedience, and safety.

Until next month...”*May Adonai bless you, and may Adonai keep you, and may He make His face to shine upon you!*”

Pastor: Eddie Donelson

Pastor: Keith McDannel

Reporter: Christina Wilcox

Youth Camp at Camp Hope begins June 2nd and concludes July 8th. Registration forms, calendars and schedules for the 2016 camping season have been mailed to the churches. This is a very important ministry...please pray for the campers and workers.

BEAR POINT CHURCH – Rural Sesser

Greetings from Bear Point.

Sympathy and prayers are extended to Brother Kenny Williams and family in the passing of Sister Marietta who was a faithful member of our church family.

Shawn and Samantha Mygatt had an Easter egg hunt at the church for the Toddlers and J-Walkers on Saturday April 26. All had a good time and each one received a gift and plenty of eggs.

We had sunrise services on Easter Sunday.

The ladies had an enjoyable time going out to eat and shopping this month.

Our youth did a good job leading services on April 10. After the morning services the youth had a pasta dinner with donations going to the youth fund helping with their mission activities. Thanks to all who helped with this and provided food.

The church voted to give a love offering to each of our Illinois youth who are going on E-Team this summer.

Pastor: Larry Cook

Reporter: Linda Cook

HARMONY CHURCH – Rural West Frankfort

As we draw closer to warmer days of summer, I love to watch the trees as they begin to bloom and the new tender leaves break through! It is truly a season of new life!

Harmony is very happy to welcome our two newest members, Sadie Phillips and Penny Blades. We are thankful for both of these ladies and are very blessed to have them with us.

On March 19th, the Walk for Life was held at Marion Mall, 16 walkers came to show their support for the sanctity of human life! Thank you to all who participated!

March 20th was a blessed day! The services were full of the Lord's sweet presence throughout the day! Harmony had an Appreciation Meal after the evening service for Brother Jim Thompson, Sister Betty King, and Sister Joan Bozovich to show our appreciation for their many years of humble service to Jesus and the church. Jim was Harmony's worship leader for 55 years and a trustee for 50 years. Betty served as treasurer for 44 years and Joan taught in the nursery for 30 years. We also celebrated Brother Curtis Smith's 5 year anniversary as our pastor. (It will be a long time before you have to buy socks, Brother Curtis!) We are very thankful for his leadership, his humble spirit, and his willingness to follow God's leading upon his life. Thank you for preaching the Truth, Brother Curtis! It was wonderful time of love and fellowship!

On March 26th, Harmony held their annual Easter Egg Hunt! Lots of eggs and lots of kids made for a fun morning at Harmony!

On March 27th, Harmony's Sunrise service had 40 in attendance. A foot washing ceremony was held along with a meal and wonderful fellowship with the Lord and each other! Harmony had 137 people come out to worship the Lord during the morning service. Brother Andy Lee from Whiteash did a wonderful job of bringing the Word during the evening service.

Finally, Brother Curtis was supposed to preach at Union FWBC's revival on Wednesday, March 30th. But, much to our joy, Sister Emilee and Brother Curtis welcomed their baby boy into the world! Titus Matthew Smith was born at 10:42 pm, weighing 6lbs 2oz and 19 ½ inches long! We are so happy for the both of them! Congratulations, Sister Emilee and Brother Curtis!

"I will praise thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart: and I will glorify thy name forevermore" ~Psalm 86:12

Pastor: Curtis Smith

Reporter: Jennifer Cook



Don't forget the Fishing Tournament for Junior
Boys and Girls at
Camp Hope on Saturday, May 14th

FIRST CHURCH – Johnston City

Happy Spring Everyone! The birds are chirping, the flowers are blooming and the weather is beautiful!

On Easter Sunday our choir performed “There’s Room at the Cross” a beautiful medley of songs. We had an egg hunt for the children, which they enjoyed very much.

On April 3rd, we were blessed to have Pastor Jamie Lee and his family come to speak to our congregation. They are getting ready to move to Champaign-Urbana to plant the Bridge Free Will Baptist Church. They are doing some amazing work for the community!

We are in the process of getting things ready for our summer meals program (JC Kids’ Lunch Bunch). It will begin June 6th and continue through the summer, ending on July 29th.

Pastor: Keith Fletcher Reporter: April Randolph

FIRST CHURCH - Benton

God's flower garden is starting to bloom and the dog wood trees really stand out. Things move along here at Benton. We were so happy to have two E-Team members visit us and had a video from McGuire Portell. Hopefully the young people have received all their support by now. We're looking forward to a visit from the Portells before long.

Brother Kent was surprised with a Birthday party - of course that is Sister Tedra's birthday, too. We were pleased to have The Clyatts visiting over Easter. Brother Larry, along with Brother Paul Leffler, baptized their grandchildren Zeb and Delaney Leffler in the afternoon of Easter Sunday. The children were treated to an Easter Egg hunt after church services.

Children's church filled their first 10 boxes for Operation Christmas Child. We're proud that members of our Wednesday night youth group have already started making plans for camp. Brother Jamie Lee and family visited church on Wednesday, April 13th. WAC held a 30 pieces of silver event by passing out little bags for church members to fill. Prayers are requested for Edith Taylor, Maxine Naylor, Lawrence Gostowski, The Cooks, Tim Sanders, Georgianne Miller, and others who need the Lord's Touch. Above all, pray for our Nation.

Pastor: Kent Dunford Reporter: Barbara Spencer

HAZEL DELL CHURCH -Rural Sesser

Happy Spring, everyone! It is so good to see the sun and feel its warmth.

The Peppy Calebs had their monthly luncheon at the church on Thursday, March 23rd with twelve in attendance. Thank you to Brother Louis and Sister Brenda Mines for providing the ham. A good time of food and fellowship was enjoyed by all.

On Sunday, March 20th Sister Diana Harrison presented herself for membership. We are so happy to welcome her into full fellowship with us. Brother Brian Lewis was the speaker for our Easter Sunrise service. During the morning service, Brother Rusty Miller directed the Easter Cantata. Thank you to all who contributed in any way to make this a special day.

Congratulations to Alex and Paige (Petro) Owens on the birth of their beautiful baby girl, Emersyn Ryan. Emersyn was born on April 2nd. Proud grandparents are Mark and Gena Petro and proud great grandparents are Danny and Sharon Sample and Sue Petro.

The Men’s Prayer breakfast group continues to meet at the church on the first Sunday of each month. They would like to encourage all interested men to attend.

Our M&M Club has begun meeting on Sunday evenings. It is designed for all elementary age students. Sister Jennifer LeVault is the leader and she would love for all kids to attend.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Glenna Roberson. Remember to pray for this family during this difficult time.

We are so appreciative of Brother Walter Freeman for filling our pulpit for a few weeks while our deacons search for a new pastor. We are also so thankful that Brother Larry Clyatt is making plans to be our Interim Pastor. He and his wife plan to take over duties in May. Please continue to pray for us as we wait upon the Lord to send us a Pastor.

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.” - Ephesians 6:10, 11

Diana Kirk, Reporter

HERITAGE CHURCH – Springfield

We are reporting after the travails of snow, rain and other winter/spring weather occurrences...also days full of sunshine. Plans are abloom for a garden full of God's bounty. Daffodils, crocuses, tulips and other plants are shooting up toward the sun.

Master's Men's Meeting is held monthly in the Galen Warren Building.

Adult Sunday School is studying the Book of Mark from the Bible Scholar Bible studies.

Heritage is always active with the Youth Ministry. Youth Choirs practice Wednesday evenings at 5:30 along with fellowship and praise for God. Wednesday evening adult service is full of praise, singing and worship.

Sunday morning services are alive with the spirit of faith and fellowship. Sunday evening is Vespers at 6:00 pm. On March 20th, we viewed the movie, "War Room". It is an uplifting film.

One of our faithful congregants suffered the loss of a beloved aunt in March and shortly after, her mother. The visitation and funeral was held at Heritage, officiated by Pastor Leonard. Over two hundred people came to show their respects to the family. How one life can affect so many! When you cast your life net out, pray that it is filled with Christian love and respect, so that we may bring the unsaved to God.

Have an attitude of gratitude.

"I set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth." – Genesis 9:13

Pastor: Marcellus Leonard

Reporter: Marilyn Guthrie

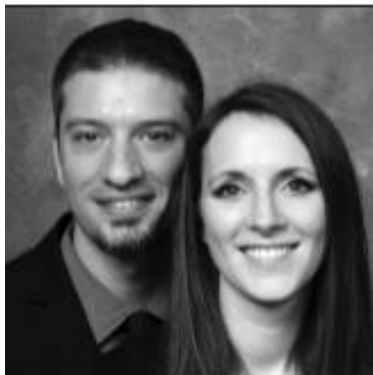
ILLINI INITIATIVE – Champaign/Urbana

Time flies when you are having fun is the old saying. Time sure does seem to go by quickly here. We meet students in the fall and here we are just less than a month away of saying goodbye to some of them. I tell people this is a goodbye ministry. We are constantly building relationships because our students are constantly transitioning to there next phase of life after being here at the University of Illinois. This has difficulties and advantages. The advantage is that starting in June and definitely in August a whole new group of students will come to Champaign Urbana and I can guarantee that several of these students will be curious about this new thing to them called Christianity.

If you would pray for a student named Wen. She has been in my conversation group called "Big Questions of Life" for both semesters. She will be studying here next year as well. We are excited for the opportunity to pour more of ourselves into her life. She is a non-believer. She is a super nice person but she is super lost. I am excited for what her future brings here next in the coming months.

Thank you all for your continued support and interest into the ministry here. I received a phone call from Yao-Wen, a former student, a couple of weeks ago and it reminded me that our influence still has an impact on the lives of these students now living all around the world.

**Tyler Penn – Missionary to International Students
University of Illinois**



ILLINOIS WOMEN ACTIVE FOR CHRIST
"Tree of Life"
Saturday, May 7th 9:00 am – Noon (Lunch)
NEW HOPE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
Rural Ina
Joel and Lydie Teague - Speakers

**Provision Closet Needs: Twin and King sheets
(300+ thread count) and gift cards.**

Illinois Free Will Baptist Newsletter

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Illinois State Association of Free Will Baptists
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**MOTHER'S DAY
OFFERING...**
MAY 8th

Free Will Baptist
Family 
Ministries



MOMS PROVIDE: PROTECTION PROVISION PREPARATION

PROTECTION - Moms naturally want to protect their children, but some mothers are unable for a variety of different reasons. Free Will Baptist Family Ministries is here to offer a safe, nurturing environment to grow and thrive.

PROVISION - Moms want to give their children all they can. Free Will Baptist Family Ministries provides not only for basic physical needs of food & shelter, but emotional & spiritual support, social interaction & growth.

PREPARATION - Moms want to prepare their children for the "real world." Some mothers are far from prepared themselves. Free Will Baptist Family Ministries prepares young people through our on-campus school, loving house parents, counselors, & an Alcohol & Drug program to overcome addictions.

Our mothers love and protect us, provide and prepare us for life's journey. Every **Mother's Day**, we ask our churches to remember us with a special offering. What better occasion to help hurting children who may not have been blessed with a Godly mother who prayed for them, trained them or set an example to them of how to follow Christ. **Please remember us on May 8, 2016, or during the month of May. Mark your gifts "Mother's Day Offering".** For more information, contact us at: **90 Stanley Lane, Greeneville, TN 37743 Phone: 423.639.9449 E-mail: info@fwbfm.com Website: www.fwbfm.com**