



Illinois Free Will Baptist

June 2016

Newsletter

ARNOLD VIEW CHURCH

located near Creal Springs celebrated **100 Years of ministry on May 15th** with former pastor, Gene Parton preaching the anniversary message.



Average Sunday School attendance during March was 100. The morning worship average was 176. The Women Active for Christ meeting was held on March 9. Congratulations to Dylan and Sarah Pyron on the birth of Ruby Rose Pyron on March 10. Joel and Lydie Teague were with us on March 20. Brother Joel shared about their ministry in France. That evening, we met at Crab Orchard High School for the FCA student-led service.

An egg hunt was held on March 26. Brother Scott Kallem brought our Easter Sunrise Service message. The Everready Class furnished a delicious breakfast. Some of our congregation attended the FCA Banquet at Carbondale. SIU football coach Nick Hill and Baltimore Ravens team chaplain Johnny Shelton were the featured speakers. The Lord's Supper was observed on April 3. Christian Skate Night was held on April 4. Our teens enjoyed an outing to Skyzone in Evansville. Angel Packs were assembled and delivered to Crab Orchard School during the month of April.

Average Sunday School attendance during April was 98. The morning worship average was 142. Congratulations to Brad and Morgan Damron on the birth of Leah Maxine Damron on April 4. Gary Havener, 57, passed away on April 11. Condolences to his family. The Women Active for Christ meeting was held on April 13. Brother Florentin Clipa shared about his ministry in Romania on April 17.

Our annual business meeting was held that evening. We voted to have Josh Colson serve as a summer intern. We also voted to extend our main building to the north and also to put the area east of our kitchen under roof to allow for a kitchen enlargement and renovation. Arnold View hosted the South Central District Meeting on April 23. We received our World Missions Offering on April 24. Sister Linda Eason had a Celebration Birthday meal at our church that day. This marked 14 years since God spared her life from a serious brain aneurysm. A baby shower for Katie Damron-Stokes and Robby Clark-Stokes was held on April 30. The final Skate Night of the season was held on May 2 at Emery Brothers in Marion. Our Mother/Daughter Banquet was held on May 3. "What's in Your Purse?" was the theme.

"Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God." - 2 Corinthians 5:20

Pastor: Ivan Ryan

Reporter: Buddy Parks

2016 ILLINOIS STATE CTS COMPETITION WINNERS

Bear Point Church:

Bible Memorization 0.k5 Brooklyn Hicks 2nd place
Vocal Solo 1.10 (A) Layla Newbury 1st place

Rescue Church:

Bible Memorization 0.k5 Jevan Squires 1st place	Bible Sword Drill 0.55 Payton Heater 2nd place
Bible Sword Drill 0.66 Hank Barker 1st place	Bible Tic-Tac-Toe 0.70 Rescue 1st place
Vocal Solo 1.10 (B) Payton Heater 1st place	Vocal Solo 1.20 (C) Samuel Harris 1st place
Vocal Duet 2.20 (C) Samuel & Payton 1st place	Single Photo 7.51 (B) Payton Heater 1st place
Single Photo 7.51 (C) Avery Barker 1st place	T-shirt Design 7.43 (B) Payton Heater 1st place
Conceptual Art 7.80 (A) Benjamin Harris 1st place	

Winners list continues on Page 2

Northwest Church:

Bible Memorization 2nd grade Josh Lewis 1st place
Sword Drill 0.55 Stephen Lewis 1st place

Ina Church:

Bible Memorization 5th grade Jack Ryan 1st place	Vocal Duet 2.20 (D) Ryan Sisters 1st place
Vocal Quartet 2.40 (A) Ina Quartet 1st place	Vocal Ensemble 2.50 (B) Ina Ensemble 1st place
Ind. Sign Language 6.11 (D) Breana Wingo 1st Place	Human Video 6.40 (D) Change (Ina) 1st place
Group Drama 6.53 (B)	Recorded puppetry 6.62 (B) CAMO:
Who Said Animals Are Dumb 1st place	Christ Ambassadors Moving On 1 st place
Photo Essay 7.52 (D) Breana Wingo 1st place	Sculpted Clay 7.71 (D) Breana Wingo 1st place
Conceptual Art 7.80 (B) Jack Ryan 1st place	

Blue Point Church:

Bible Bowl 0.80 Blue point bible bowl team 1st place
Ind. Drama 6.51 (D) Colin Waller 1st place

Calvary Church:

Vocal solo 1.20 (D) Ben Barcroft 1st place	Ind. Drama 6.51 (B) Samuel Barcroft 1st place
Painting 7.10 (A) Lilian Dunaway 1st place	Drawing 7.20 (B) Seth Ulrey 1st place

Decatur Church:

Vocal Solo 1.30 (D) Gabby Boomer 1st place
Vocal Trio 2.30 (D) Decatur D Trio 1st place
Mixed Media 7.30 (D) Ashten Winter 1st place

Pittsburg Church:

Instrumental Solo 5.10 (A) Tate Miller 1st place
Instrumental Solo 5.10 (B) Madolynn Barnett 1st place

BEAR POINT CHURCH – Rural Sesser

On April 16 we had about 15 young people and adults who went to Love Packages and helped package literature to be sent around the world. They also took bibles and literature from our church.

Congratulations to Brooklyn Hicks, Layla Newbury and Lauren Mygatt who will be going to the National and participating in youth competition. We are proud of all our youth who competed at state.

Congratulations to Anthony and Abby Lowery who were married on April 30.

Shelby Payne shared with us about her missions trip to Jamaica in July and a love offering was taken for her. Please keep her in prayer as she prepares and collects items to take with them.

We celebrated Mother's Day with a gift for each mother present. Special recognition to the oldest Wilma Young, youngest child Beth Mandrell, and most family present Kelley Hicks and Ella Webb.

Katie Mygatt and Layla Newbury participated in the youth fishing tournament and came in fourth place. They reported a good time but a chilly time.

Bess Mygatt, Myra Lincoln, Carleen Roberts and Linda Cook attended the WAC state meeting at New Hope.

On Sunday May 15 we recognized our graduates. Graduating from high school are Brianna Bowlin, MacKayla Tindall, Chase Ragland, Kody Miller, Luke Winget, Dakota Confer. From Jr. High Lily Winget, Logan Kirk, Ryker Kiselewski. From Kindergarten: Brooklyn Hicks, Shaelyn Taylor, Camree Patyski and Crosby Conner. From College: Haleigh Zimmerman and Chrissy Confer. We have three young ladies within our church family also graduating from High School: Alli Roberts, Kassidy Wilson and Kylee Edgmon. Brother Larry spoke at Sesser-Valier Baccalaureate services May 15.

Pastor: Larry Cook

Reporter: Linda Cook

BLUE POINT CHURCH – Rural Cisne

Several ladies made a trip to Olivet Nazarene University to hear Johnny Diaz sing and Liz Curtis Higgs speak. Brother Ernie and Suzanne attended. It was a real blessing to hear Joel and Lydie Teague speak. Several attended a surprise 80th birthday party for Mary Lou Simmons. Her family hosted the party at the Cisne Community Center.

Shane and Joy Davison returned to the states as Shane's mother passed away in Arkansas. They were able to spend a couple of days in Illinois, staying with Brother Ernie and Suzanne. They shared with Blue Point on a Wednesday evening. Long-time member Doris Bozarth passed away recently. She had been a part of Blue Point for over seventy-four years.

We held our annual Men's Appreciation Dinner on a Sunday afternoon. A good crowd of men and boys attended and enjoyed a delicious lunch. Several attended a St. Louis Cardinals ballgame through the Knothole Program. The striping on our gym floor has now been completed, so volleyball and basketball can be played with official markings.

We congratulate our many graduates. Layton Atwood, Kaleb Smith, and Ellie Hill graduated from 8th grade at Cisne Middle School. Nathaniel Freeman graduated from Floyd Henson Junior High School. Our high school graduates included Jon Hill, Kylar Davis, Noah Barnard (who we share with Oak Valley), and Colton and Mitchell Lane. Chynna Byars received her associate degree at John A. Logan College. Bill Lewis and Steven Pogue both passed their R.N. exams and were pinned.

Brother Ernie traveled to Champaign with the Illinois Board of Missions to tour some areas that Jamie and Heather Lee hope to target with their new church plant. They also met with Tyler Penn at the English Corner to hear about his ministry with international students.

Pastor Ernie Lewis

Reporter Suzanne Lewis

PITTSBURG CHURCH - Pittsburg

The end of the school year is always a flurry of activity between school ending and summer beginning! We are easing into our new schedule and hope ya'll are too!

Our AWANA program ended on Wednesday, April 27th with our annual Commencement ceremony. All the kids and workers got a nice travel cup with Philippians 4:13 on it. Very cool! We will pick the program back up again in the fall once school has resumed.

The Women's Banquet that was held on Friday, May 6th, went very well and all had a great time. A comedic play set in the context of Mayberry was performed throughout the evening. A 3 course meal was also served as part of the entertainment. They guys of the church also pitched in with serving and may have had more fun than the ladies! Lots of fun, food, and fellowship!

At the time of this writing we are just days away from our next Church Closet giveaway. We will be opening the doors to the public on Saturday morning, May 14th at 7am and giving away lots of clothing, toys, furniture, food, and more. It is always such a blessing to see needs met right here in our community.

Our Summer Son program is set to begin on Tuesday, June 7th and will be every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday throughout the summer. It is a biblically based academic program that will assist the kids in staying fresh on the concepts and information that they learned in their last year of school. There will be academic study time, bible study, games, snacks, etc. The teacher who started the program a few years ago wanted to help kids with retaining what they had learned so they would be better equipped for the following year. Also, so they would not lose what they had learned over the summer. It is a great ministry for the youth of our community.

VBS prep is also underway. The committee has been working for a couple of months in order to lessen the load of all that needs to be done. We will be holding our VBS during the week of July 25th-29th. If you know of someone in our area who is looking for some place for their kiddos to go for VBS, send them our way!

Pastor: Eddie Donelson

Pastor: Keith McDannel

Reporter: Christina Wilcox

Note to Reporters: The deadline for articles to be published in the July edition of the Illinois Newsletter is June 15. Please send all articles to: David Shores . 25 Edgewood Road . Mt. Vernon, Illinois 62864 or e-mail to: davids@myfreewillbaptist.org

RESCUE CHURCH – Rural Whittington

Our news this time is to catch you up with some events at our church during the past couple of months. March was busy with Easter activities, egg hunts, the community outreach program, Sunrise Service as well as the children getting ready for State CTS Competition. Brother Bryant, Ann Sink, Tom and Jane Harmon attended the State Association in Salem at the Calvary Church.

In April we had a Building Fund Offering and a business meeting.

We have started a new youth group that meets every Wednesday evening at 6:30 and we welcome all Pre-K through 8th graders. We have snacks, games, songs and most importantly, Bible study.

We express our condolences to the family of Larry Beaty, father of Nathan Beaty. The church provided a meal for the family and Pastor Bryant officiated at the funeral service. The next morning, in Sunday School class prayer time, Xander Walker prayer for Mr. Beaty's grandson, Trevor. He prayed that God would help Trevor the same way He had helped him when his grandfather Fran passed away. I believe that every small gift and encouraging word we give to a child shows up in his life later. Please pray for this family and for our church.

What an awesome God we serve!

Pastor: Bryant Harris

Reporter: Donna Harmon

FIRST CHURCH - Benton

Lots of gardens being planted and flowers are blooming. The hummingbirds are back and we're in the spring mode. The South Central Quarterly was held at Arnold View and those attending were Pastor Kent and Tedra Dunford, Don and Darline Zimmerman, Gail and Barbara Spencer and Margaret and Jerry Legendre. The State WAC meeting was held at New Hope Church. Margaret Legendre was the only one able to go. Greg Walker, a very dedicated young man spoke to us on May 1. We encourage other churches to invite him as it is so wonderful to see such a young person so dedicated. All the attending mothers received a gift on Mother's Day. There were several guests in attendance. One couple on their way to Minnesota were steered to our church. Many of those visitors were members of the Page Family as they were having a special meal with Norma Page after church with her children and grandchildren.

Brother Jamie Lee and family will be moving into the parsonage until they are able to relocate to Champaign. It will be nice to have someone there and seeing little boys playing in the yard. We're proud of our young people as so many from our Wednesday night youth group are registering for camp.

We lost our oldest Deacon, Brother Lawrence Gostowski, but know those in heaven will be entertained with his fishing tales. Please pray for his wife, Virginia, as she goes through this difficult time. Others on the prayer list are Gary and Mary Cook, Georgianne Miller, Steve Dunford, Tom Sanders, Edith Taylor, Maxine Naylor, our country and the choice of a leader.

Pastor: Kent Dunford

Reporter: Barbara Spencer

PLEASANT VIEW CHURCH – Rural Walnut Hill

Hello from Pleasant View Church! We are enjoying God's blessings of Spring and new life. On May 7th, three ladies attended the Illinois WAC meeting at New Hope. They enjoyed the services and the hospitality. That evening the women of our church joined with Calvary Church for the annual Mother and Daughter Banquet. Lydie Teague was present for both of these events and shared her heart with us. On Mother's Day, Pastor David preached from Ephesians 6 about parents and children and God's plan for the family. All mothers received a flashlight and a pretty paper craft with a message folded inside, which were created by the students in Junior Church.

That evening our services were dismissed so that our congregation could participate in the Kell 8th Grade Baccalaureate service at Kell School. We joined with four other churches to worship God and encourage students in the faith. Wednesday evening we attended the Salem Community High School Baccalaureate as well. We praise God for Christian brothers and sisters throughout these communities and the ministry that is being done. Also, we praise Him for the graduates within our church family: Lauralai Raab and Faith Parkinson-8th Grade; Callah Mathena, Erin Maas, and Blake Hayes; High School. Congratulations to each of you!!

Happy Father's Day to all fathers. May you have a blessed day.

Pastor: David Burgess

Reporter: Holly Hayes

HAZEL DELL CHURCH - Rural Sesser

We hosted the District Meeting on Saturday, April 16th. Special thanks to the ladies of the church who provided food and/or helped serve the noon meal.

Brother Jamie Lee, Missionary to Champaign/Urbana, was our guest speaker on April 17th. Praise God for Brother Lee's passion for the work in that area of Illinois. A special offering was received for Brother Lee's ministry.

We had a special service on Sunday, April 24th. Kyle Miller and his fiancé, Kara Anne Evans were with us to minister to us in music. Mitchell Bulla delivered the morning message. What a blessing to see how the Lord is working in this young man's life! A World Missions Offering was received, also.

The Peppy Calebs met at Dial's Restaurant in Sesser on April 28th with 17 in attendance. It was a good time of food and fellowship.

We are so thankful that the Lord has sent Brother Larry and Sister Peggy Clyatt to minister to us during our search for a pastor. Prior to their arrival several people worked to make repairs and clean the parsonage. They arrived at Hazel Dell on May 4th. Several church members were on hand to help them unload the U-haul. Brother Clyatt's first service was on Mother's Day. All mothers in attendance were given a candle to honor them for their special day.

The Men's Prayer breakfast group met for their meeting on May 1st. The time for Church Camps is quickly approaching. Several from the Church went to Camp Hope to do some cleaning in the girls' dorm. Thank you to all who helped.

"Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:

And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." Psalm 139:23-24

Interim Pastor: Larry Clyatt

Reporter: Diana Kirk

HARMONY CHURCH – Rural West Frankfort

Summer is just around the corner! It has truly been a month full of blessings and the presence of the Holy Spirit! The first Monday in April the kids enjoyed a fun-filled night of roller skating! Our Sisters of Strength group held their monthly meeting on April 5th.

A baby shower was held for Sis. Emilee Smith on Saturday, April 16th. Titus Smith was presented at the shower by two very proud and joyful parents! An abundance of food, gifts, and fellowship made for a wonderful evening!

Harmony Church welcomed Brother Terry Pierce from Tupelo FWB in Tupelo, Mississippi to host our "Ignite the Flame Within" Spring Conference, April 22-24. Brother Terry preached Friday and Saturday evening as well as both Sunday services. We are very thankful for Brother Terry and the powerful and humbling messages God gave him to share with us!

Dennis Slater, Caryn Humphrey and Jennifer Cook attended the Worship Conference held at Church of God in McLeansboro on April 23. It was an amazing conference that touched on all aspects of worshipping our Lord and Savior! We learned a wealth of information! The conference ended with a worship service full of praise, testimonies, and the presence of the Holy Spirit!

Sunday, April 24th we collected a generous donation of food for the Manna Mission in Johnston City. Thank you to all who gave to help this ministry!

May 1st was truly a special day at Harmony. Harmony Church held their annual Homecoming, celebrating 184 years of ministry with 131 in attendance for the service and 105 for the singing that followed. Brother Brad Ryan from Ina FWBC brought the message and the Victory Boys were with us in the afternoon for a blessed worship service. Throughout the day the atmosphere of "Homecoming" was truly felt as we enjoyed the singing, reminiscing, and fellowship with one another. We are very thankful to Brother Brad Ryan for the message and to the Victory Boys for a wonderful time of praise and worship!

New parking stops were laid on Monday, May 2nd. Thank you to all the men who helped with the work. The parking lot looks wonderful! On May 3rd we held our monthly Sisters of Strength meeting. It was a very special time of fellowship with one another. We love all our Sisters at Harmony Church! Please pray for our upcoming events. We will have our annual Church in the Park on June 5 at W.F. City Park at 11:00am and VBS will begin June 6 and go through June 10th.

"Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him." ~1 Corinthians 2:9

Pastor: Curtis Smith

Reporter: Jennifer Cook

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OR CURRENT RESIDENT

Happy Father's Day!

*A report from our newest Church Planter, Jamie Lee who is planting a
New church in Champaign, Illinois:*

THE BRIDGE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

GOD IS FAITHFUL! A repeating thought in my life is "What God has called us to do He will accomplish, all we have to do is be obedient." I am reminded of the story of Esther when she went before the king. All she was going to ask for was the king not to allow the Jews to be annihilated. But instead, he offered her half the kingdom. This was God truly at work accomplishing His will!

I would like to share some details of the selling of our house that might be an encouragement to you.

April 1: At the closing of a phone conversation with Pastor Rick Baldwin from Friendswood, TX he said, "I am going to pray you will receive a full price offer and whoever comes through your house will fall in love with it."

April 5: Heather told me, "You know I am putting my notice in on Thursday. I wonder if God is waiting on me to give up something so hard."

April 6 and April 7: The realtor shows the house and Heather resigns.

April 8: The family walks through the house, falls in love with it (per info from realtor). We came together on a price and our house sold! Later, the realtor shared with us the buyer recently turned his life over to Jesus. He shared with the realtor he had prayed we would be able to come to an agreement on price. I call that God working on behalf of both buyer and seller!

April 17: I received a call from a dear Pastor friend in Benton, Illinois. Their church discussed and voted to offer us their parsonage, while God continues to prepare the way for us to move to Champaign! What a gift!

Let's be like Esther, obedient, and see how faithful God is! Please continue to pray for us!

To Him Be The Glory, Jamie and Heather Lee

