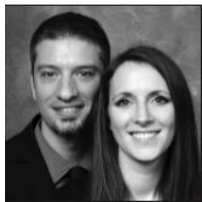


Illinois Free Will Baptist Newsletter

April 2016



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.

HAZEL DELL CHURCH – Rural Sesser

Hello from the Hazel Dell Family. May God's blessings be with you as we enter into the Easter season.

The Peppy Calebs met for lunch at the church on Thursday, February 25th. Brother Ted and Sister Wanda Thompson hosted and provided roast. There were 12 in attendance. Brother Larry Jones led in a time of devotion. A good time of food and fellowship was enjoyed by all.

The Men's Prayer Breakfast group met on March 6th for their monthly meeting.

On Sunday, March 6th, Brother Eric announced that he has accepted a position as Student Pastor with the Immanuel Baptist Church in Benton, and his last service with us will be on Easter Sunday. We ask for your prayers for the Drakes as they begin their next journey of following God's will for their lives. We are so thankful that the Lord sent them to minister to us. We love and appreciate them. We also seek your prayers for us as we begin the transition and search for a new pastor. God Is Good! We trust that He will send us the person He wants to minister to us!

"Oh Give thanks unto the Lord; call upon his name: make known his deeds among the people."- Psalm 105: 1

Pastor: Eric Drake

Reporter: Diana Kirk

B LUE POINT CHURCH – Rural Cisne

Several of the ladies have begun having exercise classes at the church a couple of nights a week. On most Saturday mornings there is also a YOGA class. Several ladies that have participated are not only from the church, but also from the community.

On a recent Sunday morning David Williford from Welch College in Nashville, Tennessee, gave a report on the college and preached in our morning service. We received an offering for the college that morning. Brother Ernie Lewis was able to attend the Bible Conference and Forum 16 at Welch in March.

We have several youth working on competition entries for CTS. Some of our teens will be singing, presenting a drama, and participating on a Bible Bowl team.

We held our Annual Talent Night for Missions on a Sunday evening. Many in the church of all ages demonstrated musical and dramatic ability. Afterwards we enjoyed a fellowship centering around a taco bar. The mission offering from that evening will be divided between Shane and Joy Davison and Josh and Ashley Bennett.

The Emily Malone District of the Women Active for Christ will meet on Saturday, April 2nd at the First Free Will Baptist Church in Mt. Vernon. The speaker at this 10:00am meeting will be Vickie Hollis of the Crossroads Church in Effingham.

Pastor: Ernie Lewis

Reporter: Suzanne Lewis

BEAR POINT CHURCH – Rural Sesser

This is the day the Lord hath made let us rejoice and be glad in it! Greetings from Bear Point.

We hosted the Welch College banquet on Saturday evening February 20. It's always good to hear Welch news and learn of the progress on the new campus and hear how God is blessing the college.

Layla Belle Newbury and Kynadi Kirk were baptized on Sunday morning February 21. Pray for these young ladies as they began their walk with the Lord.

Our youth and their sponsors hosted a soup and potato bar after the morning services on February 28. Thanks to all who donated food and gave generously to support our youth. We appreciate our youth taking part in the services on second Sunday of each month.

Our WAC voted to give \$400 to Shelby Payne for her summer mission trip to Jamaica. We also voted to give \$500 toward the WMO offering.

Pastor: Larry Cook

Reporter: Linda Cook

PITTSBURG CHURCH - Pittsburg

You know how life changes after major events: before marriage-after marriage, before kids-after kids....this is the only way to describe the life altering trip to Israel that many took from our church in February. Life will never be the same. The Bible has literally come to life! The words on the pages are no longer just that, they are actual, real, and in living color! There is something about seeing the places with your own eyes that ushers in deeper understanding. The Galilee area is absolutely breathtaking and I can fully understand why our Jesus chose to minister in that area for most of the time He walked this earth. Truly G-d's beautiful masterpiece! The trip was not and is not a vacation, in my opinion. It is not even a pilgrimage. It is living out G-d's prophetic plan in these last days like in Zechariah 8! Zechariah 8:20-23 describes people coming from different cities to go to Jerusalem to pray to the L-rd and grabbing a hold of a Jewish man to lead them because G-d is with him. This is the exact picture that was painted for us by Pastor Dean Haun concerning our Messianic Jewish guide Yoni. Isn't it great that G-d's Word is timeless.....

We, as you, are in the countdown to Resurrection Weekend services at the time of this writing. I have heard it likened to the Superbowl for Christians, the face off of Good vs evil! THE day that death, hell, and the grave were defeated-Good wins! This is something to be celebrated every day, not just once a year! We are praying that G-d will move mightily in your services as well as ours and change lives for all eternity. Praise Him for the souls to be saved!!

We will be hosting a Christian Creation Apologist on Sunday, April 3rd during our 10am service. At 6pm he will address the Youth Group. This is open to anyone who would like to attend and is free. Many of those hard questions that cause doubt will be addressed and we will leave equipped with more answers of why we believe what we believe.

It is hard to believe, but the school year is starting to wind down! Our AWANA program is doing the same. At the end of this month we will be holding the year end party and commencement and beginning to prepare for the next session. Time is flying!!

Pastor: Eddie Donelson

Pastor: Keith McDannel

Reporter: Christina Wilcox

ARNOLD VIEW CHURCH – Rural Creal Springs

Average Sunday School attendance during February was 86. The morning worship average was 170. Angel Needham, 15, died in an auto accident on January 10. Dorothy Loyd, 94, passed away on February 17. Condolences to these families.

The Women Active for Christ meeting was held on February 17. Brother Mike Edwards shared about Welch College and brought the morning worship message on February 21. Our Valentine Banquet was held that evening. A group of ladies from our church attended the WAC District Meeting at Benton on March 5.

Four members went to the Hope Center Abortion Clinic and witnessed 2 young families leave the facility, having a change of heart.

Congratulations to Nick and Erika Warner on the birth of Jonathan Robert Warner on February 7. Also, congrats to Jason and Kerri Henry on the birth of Jack Riley Henry on March 3. Our Junior Church and Children's Church groups enjoyed an afternoon at Herrin Bowl on March 6. We viewed the film "War Room" that evening.

"And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ." - II Thessalonians 3:5

Pastor: Ivan Ryan

Reporter: Buddy Parks

Second Notice: **SUMMER MISSION TRIPS PLANNED**

This is the list provided by International Missions of the young people who are planning mission trips this summer. You may support them with prayers and contribute to their account by contacting our missions department at FWBGO.COM

E-TEAM 2016:

***Jonathan Hill** - Blue Point Church: E-Team **France**

* **Ben Barcroft** – Calvary Church: E-Team **France**

***Gabby Boomer**- E-Team **Panama**

***James Gibbs** – Bethel Church: E-Team **Japan**

***Isaiah Penn** – Crosslife Church (Indiana): E-Team **Cuba**

* **McGwire Portell** – is the son of Darren and Dana Portell who are serving as missionaries in Taiwan. Home churches for Darren and Dana were Bethel FWB, South Roxana and First FWB, Benton. He is a student at Morrison Academy (boarding school) in Taichung, Taiwan. He will be serving with ETeam Panama. For more information, he can be contacted via email at portellm@mca.org.tw or go to www.fwbgo.com/student-missions, search his name for more details and even donate online. Since McGwire lives in Taiwan, he is not available to speak prior to ETeam but he is willing to provide a short video clip for your church that can be sent via imessage or facebook messenger.

CMP (College Missions Program) 2016:

* **Esther Smith** is a member of New Hope Church. She is a freshman at Welch College and is going to **Bulgaria**. You may contact her at: smithesther728@yahoo.com or cell phone: 618-895-4805.

***Emily Petty**: a student at Welch College and is going to Brazil. You may contact her by phone: 217-994-6274 or go to FWBGO.COM/student-missions, search her name and get more details and even donate online.

ELIC ***Dalton Alvis** is going to **Cambodia**. He is a freshman at Welch College and may be contacted by going to www.elic.org/donate/give, click *Support An ELIC Teacher*, type in “Alvis”, then click on his name.

ILLINI INITIATIVE / PENN FAMILY

In this month’s newsletter I really just want to ask you to please pray for us during Easter. This day is so important as it gives us an opportunity to bring many international students to church, and for many of these students it will be the first time that they step foot into a church.

Here is a look at how Easter works for us. First we ask students from the English Corner if they would like to experience an Easter holiday with an American family. We share with them that they will go to church with us, eat a traditional Easter meal with us, and play traditional Easter Games with our kids. In the past few years we have had 8-12 students sign up to go to Easter with us. This day is filled with the Gospel. Last year on the ten minute walk to the church service with the students I was asked by a Chinese student, “How does someone become a Christian?” I was so grateful to have the opportunity to share about Jesus on the day we celebrate His resurrection.

I would also ask that you pray for my conversation group called “Big Questions of Life”. We have several students from many different backgrounds and beliefs. It is a time I get to share every week of how Jesus and the Bible helps me answer these big questions of life. There is a Chinese student started to follow up with questions about faith through email. I ask that you would pray for her. There is visiting scholar from Turkey, who would like to see what an American church is like. I ask for prayers for him.

I don’t know what will take place in the hearts of these students in the future. I do know that in order for there to be fruit in the future the seed must be planted in the present. Thank you, all of you who support and pray for us. It is you who make it possible for us to plant the seed of the gospel among these international students.

In one final note I would encourage you, if you have not already seen our video, to take a look at our video concerning our ministry. It can be found at the International Missions website, fwbgo.com. Just click on the media tab at the top of the website page and the click on WMO 2016, and you will see our names come up and a place to select our video. Thank you.



CTS Competitive Activities
Ina Church
April 29 - 30

HARMONY FREE WILL – Rural West Frankfort

As we started the year of 2016 it seems that the days go by faster and faster. I guess it seems that way as we get older. Now as we head into summer we look forward to longer days and beautiful flowers and all that the Lord has blessed us with.

On January 16th a reception was held at Harmony to celebrate the recent wedding of Cheryl Blades and Terry Epplin. We wish them a long and happy marriage.

January 31st was a busy day. We had our contribution of food to the Promise Mission in Marion as well as our birthday and anniversary celebration. New Hope church was with us for the evening service and provided us with the singing service. Brother Gene Blades preached the message and a fellowship followed.

On February 2nd, our Sisters of Strength held their monthly meeting.

Saturday, February 6th was Harmony's Valentine Party with 47 in attendance. Heights Market in West Frankfort catered a delicious meal and fun filled games followed. Thank you to all who helped with the party.

Jamie Lee, who is planting a new church in Champaign/Urbana, was with Harmony in the evening of February 7th. We pray for his work in that area.

The Welch Rejoice Choir was with us on February 21st to bring music to our morning worship service. What a blessing they were. We thank them and pray for their ministry.

At our March SOS meeting, we held a pre-baby shower for Sister Emilee and Brother Curtis.

What a great Saturday, March 5th turned out to be. The men of Harmony held a prayer breakfast at the church with 29 attending and Brother Dennis Slater bringing the devotion. Approximately 40 women representing Harmony attended the 20th anniversary of the Ladies Seminar at White Ash Baptist Church. What a blessing. Over 219 women from 60 churches were in attendance praising the Lord.

We are now getting ready for homecoming the first Sunday of May and our VBS which is the first week of June.

Come on down and join us as we anxiously await to see what God has in store for us.

“Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.” - Philippians 4:6

Pastor: Curtis Smith

Reporter: Alice Barron

D6 DAYS
free online conference

May 2-3, 2016
D6
D6DAYS.com

Here is a free event for your entire team! A new online experience that will help you further the Family ministry conversation around the world. Register now at www.d6days.com
Deuteronomy 6:5-7

RESCUE CHURCH – Rural Whittington

Our church is celebrating our 116th Anniversary. We have pictures from the past to remind us that it takes a special part of everyone's life to make such an event possible. Our church was organized on April 21, 1900.

In January we had our Community Outreach program, the WNAC meeting, and a "Give your talent for God" night. After the service we had fellowship and finger foods.

Then, in February, we met for our Business Meeting. Our monthly Community Outreach and WNAC meetings were conducted.

A fund raiser, "Dessert Sunday" was held with all the proceeds going to Rachel Janus to help her with expenses during cancer treatment.

Ida Clark, the mother of John Clark, passed away on February 20. Our condolences to John, Marilee and family.

Pastor: Bryant Harris

Reporter: Donna Harmon

STATE ASSOCIATION REPORT

Delegates, pastors, visitors and representatives of our National Offices enjoyed the 2016 State Association which met at the Calvary Church in Salem, Illinois as they heard these reports.

Stirring and challenging sermons from three young men from Illinois as they spoke on the subject: "Ministering with Purpose". Brother Jamie Lee, Brother Curtis Smith and Brother Josh Colson delivered the Word with power.

State Treasurer, Tim Hayes, report that we sent \$124,989.58 to National Ministries. Our Together Way Plan totaled \$98,629.57 for the year. Also, the association had received a dividend check from Brotherhood Mutual for \$13,601.00.

Hazel Dell Church, Oak Grove Church, Alexander Church and Calvary Church are searching for a pastor.

Brother Alton Loveless is compiling a list of ladies who served as preachers in Illinois in the 1800 and early 1900's.

The Executive Board recommended the following allocations for our Together Way Fund for 2016:

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| National Association.....24% | CTS Board.....3% | <i>*The Disaster Response Fund has sufficient funds for the coming year. When the need arises, this board will be included in the allocations.</i> |
| Illinois State Missions.....28% | Christian Education Board.....3% | |
| Promotional Fund.....12% | Disaster Response.....0% * | |
| General Fund.....17% | Master's Men Board.....2% | |
| Camp Board.....10% | Ministerial Scholarship Fund...1% | |

Welch College students have received over \$33,000 from the Christian Education Board over the past ten years. That program continues this year with 11 students receiving scholarship monies. This board is also offering to pay the complete registration fees to Illinois pastors attending the RHMA Small Town Pastor's Conference in Morton, Illinois April 18-20.

The CTS Board has set April 29-30 as the date for CTS State Competition at the Ina Church.

The Illinois Board of Missions had a long, interesting and informational report with reports from missionaries, film clips and updates on the mission teams supported through Illinois Regional Support.

The Camp Board reported that Camp Hope had 389 campers last summer, had made several improvements to the camp and has two major improvement projects scheduled for the near future. A bath and shower room addition for the Girl's Dorm will provide 6 additional toilets and showers as well as 8-10 sinks and mirrors. Estimated cost: \$54,000. Also,

The Caretaker's Home needs repairs and updates at a cost of \$35,000. Dates for the 2016 Youth Camps:

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| June 2-4: Leadership Camp | June 19-24: Freshman/Sophomore Camp |
| June 5-10: Junior/Senior Camp | June 26-30: Primary Camp |
| June 12-17: Junior High Camp | July 3-8: Junior Camp |

The Master's Men reported having a communion service, a pie auction that raised \$486 for the Illini Initiative, great fellowship and strong preaching by Joe Wilson. The Men's Retreat is set for September 15-17 at Camp Hope.

Moderator John Pratt was applauded as he stepped down as Moderator.

Brother Curtis Smith was elected to serve as Moderator for the next year with Brother Tyler Penn serving as Assistant Moderator.

Dates to remember:

April 18-20: RHMA Small Town Pastor's Conference in Morton, Illinois.

April 29-30: CTS Competition at Ina Church.

May 7: Illinois Women Active for Christ State Meeting at Camp Hope.

May 14: Fishing Tournament for Juniors at Camp Hope.

July 17-20: National Association of Free Will Baptists meets in Kansas City, Missouri.

August 7-10: Old Fashioned Camp Meeting at Camp Hope.

September 15-17: Master's Men Retreat at Camp Hope.

September 23-24: Fall Retreat - Illinois Women Active for Christ at Camp Hope.

The State Association will met at First Church of Benton next year: March 16-18, 2017

MOTHER'S DAY OFFERING... Free Will Baptist
Family 
Ministries



Illinois Free Will Baptist April 2016

Newsletter

Illinois State Association of Free Will Baptists
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OR CURRENT RESIDENT

Reporters: Please send articles for the May Newsletter to David Shores: <davids@myfreewillbaptist.org> by April 15



WORLD MISSIONS OFFERING

April 24, 2016

How shall she hear

EXCEPT THEY

BE SENT

?

