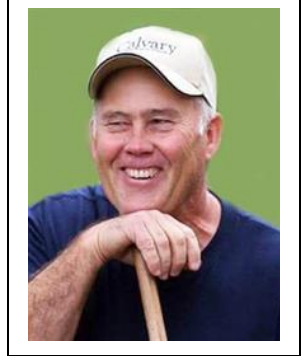


# Illinois Free Will Baptist Newsletter

June 2017

## TIM HAYES 1953-2017

With a saddened heart we announce the death of our Illinois State Treasurer and Director of the Illinois Disaster Relief Team, Tim Hayes. Timothy Ernest Hayes was born on March 5, 1953 to Billy and Naomi (Head) Hayes of Ina, IL. He grew up on his family's farm in rural Ina until the family was forced to move due to the creation of Rend Lake. The Hayes family moved to rural Kell in southern Marion County in 1969 and Tim attended Salem High School where he graduated in 1971. He attended Free Will Baptist Bible College for one year then returned to Illinois to pursue his true love, farming.



He married Kathy Kagy in 1974 and they farmed side by side for the next 43 years.

In 1984 Tim and Kathy built their home on their farm in rural Iuka and helped to start the Calvary Free Will Baptist Church in Salem, where Tim served as a deacon and Sunday School teacher for the remainder of his life. Tim and Kathy have three children, Crystal and her husband Brian Grove, Jill and her husband Rob Tilley and Eric and wife Kari and 12 grandchildren that were the joy of his life: Ryker Cainan and Kinley Grove, Claire, Gracie, Kate and Ben Tilley, and Kira, Eli, Ella, Kenna and Eliza Hayes. Tim is also survived by sisters Susan Burgess and husband David, Amy Mathena and husband Billy and a brother Shannon Hayes and wife Paula. But Tim's family doesn't stop there. His church family and those that he has met and served with over the years were important parts of his life as well. He wanted his life to honor His Creator.

Funeral services for Tim Hayes were held on Thursday April 27 at the Calvary Free Will Baptist Church in Salem. Former Pastor, Travis Penn officiated the services. Memorials may be made to Camp Hope in Ewing. Please remember his family as you pray.

## NEW HISPANIC CHURCH IN JOLIET



The Illinois Board of Missions continues to work toward the opening of an Hispanic church in Joliet. Pastor Jose Correa of Puerto Rico is planning to bring a team to Joliet in the coming months and canvas the community for prospects. Their team will also do evangelistic work and seek to gather a congregation.

Several from across the state have been working to prepare the parsonage for the pastor and evangelistic teams. Bryant Harris, Tom Harmon, and Anthony Acosta have been doing construction work and installing flooring. Brandon and Steve Dwyer installed a new furnace and A/C unit, along with a new water heater. Several workers have cleaned out the house, painted the interior walls, and cleaned out the church.

Ernie Lewis and John Waller from the Blue Point Church, David Mishler from Bakerville, Kelly Douglas from the Unity FWB Church in Kankakee, and Harlen Johnson from the Calvary Church traveled to do some work in Joliet. David Potete, Monolito and Liz Valdez Cortez, and Victor, and Ilian came from the Northwest FWB Church and worked also. Jenny Probst and Loren Cheney from the Joliet community have also been a great help in this endeavor.

Several churches and individuals have also made donations to assist with this project. All help is appreciated and expedites the opening of this special ministry.

## **RESCUE CHURCH – Rural Whittington**

Hello from Rescue! On April 5 everyone had fun as they filled Easter eggs which the children enjoyed hunting on Saturday, April 8. They also had a class taught by Pastor Bryant Harris. We were well pleased with the attendance.

On Easter we had a Sunrise Service, followed with fellowship breakfast. One boy in my class talked about how much he enjoyed the meal that we almost ran out of class time! This is a good way to help a child and produce a leader for tomorrow.

The WNAC met on April 17, then, on May 2-3, Tom Harmon, Anthony Acosta and Brother Bryant traveled to Joliet to help renovate the parsonage and church which will be used for Hispanic Ministries (See article on Page

Our Tuesday School graduated 15 children on May 9<sup>th</sup> and they presented a program, “Jesus is my Super Hero.” Ms Rita says, “Thanks and thanks again” to all her helpers. It has been a great year. Melinda Squires will move to head the program next year. Our eighth grade graduates are Dillon Poe, Avery Barker and Samuel Harris. Eva Harmon and Broxton Squires will be entering Ewing School next year with April Harmon as their teacher.

Please pray for strength as Traci Kelley, Jane Harmon, Lida Mandrell and Cathy Lingle face some health issues. A two day Vacation Bible School is scheduled for July. What an awesome God we serve!

**Pastor: Bryant Harris**

**Reporter: Donna Harmon**

## **PITTSBURG CHURCH**

Greetings from all of us here in Pittsburg! Summer is so close and we are gearing up for a warm and busy time! This past month, our AWANA program came to a close with our commencement ceremony. The kids and workers were recognized for their achievements and generosity throughout this AWANA year! We will have a summer program on Wednesday evenings for the kids that will include a lesson, craft, snack and game. We have had a good turnout so far!

The month of May is always a special time when we can honor all of the mothers of PFWBC! Our mothers were gifted a beautiful carnation flower on Mother’s Day this year! Also, the women of PFWBC hosted the yearly Women’s Banquet, Friday, May 12. They had a lovely time, laughing, eating and sharing together as always!

As this is being written, preparations are being made for the next Church Closet Giveaway. We are praying for all of the souls that walk through these doors and that they will feel His presence while they are here. Stay tuned for an update next month how the closet giveaway went!

VBS preparations have been underway for a couple months now. We have some very talented members of our church who graciously donate their time to create some amazing props to be used as decorations all throughout the church for the week of VBS. We will host VBS July 24-28 this year. If you know of someone in our area looking for a place to go, send them our way! The kids always look forward to this wonderful week!

The new sanctuary is getting so close to being finished! This is so exciting to see the Lord’s plans unfold before our eyes. We have flooring being laid currently and will be expecting the bathroom fixtures to be installed as well. We are excited for our first service to come in the new sanctuary; we may be only weeks away from that happening!!

Praying everyone has a great month ahead! *“Making our faith seen in 2017!” - Matthew 5:16*

**Pastor: Eddie Donelson**

**Pastor: Keith McDannel**

**Recorder: Hollie Utley**

## **ARNOLD VIEW CHURCH – Rural Creal Springs**

Average Sunday School attendance during April was 85. Egg Hunts were held for Junior Church and Children's Church groups. Brother Florentin Clipa shared about his ministry in Romania on April 9. The Women Active for Christ meeting was held on April 12. Pastor Ivan Ryan brought 2 messages on Easter morning. There were several special songs. The Crosstalk Class provided a delicious breakfast after the Easter Sunrise Service. There were eight from our church that attended the South Central District Meeting at Pittsburg on April 22.

Brother Josh Colson brought the morning worship message on April 23. Linda Eason sponsored a luncheon that day for her 15th Anniversary Miracle Celebration. That evening we heard from several children practicing for CTS competition. We also had our annual business meeting that evening. Paul Winters, 88, passed away on April 26. A number of our youth participated in the CTS Conference at Ina. All of our group are eligible for the National Youth Conference at Louisville, Kentucky. Our 5th Sunday Song Service on April 30 was a blessing.

*“And this is the record that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son” – I John 5:11*

## FIRST CHURCH - Benton

Praise God for his blessings of such beautiful weather we're having now. It could change soon, but give thanks for the sunshine now. Brother Kent and Tedra Dunford attended the South Central Quarterly meeting at Pittsburg, as did Gail and Barbara Spencer.

We were fortunate to have the Davisons visit with us and give us word about their missions field. Margaret Legendre, Darline Zimmerman, Darline Bumgarten and Barb Spencer attended the State WNAC meeting at Bear Point Church. It was a lovely day with inspirational speakers and a skit performed by Emily Smith and "that mean little girl".

Only one graduate this year as Nathan MacDonald graduated from Rend Lake College. Praises to Zeb Leffler for being chosen as a member of the National Honor Society. He's been busy musically, playing with different functions. Dara MacDonald received many high honors in her competitions this summer. The ladies were honored on Mother's Day with carnations from a beautifully decorated basket. We ask for prayer for Marty Leffler who injured his leg while performing duties as County Coroner. He will have to rest easily for a few weeks. Prayers, too for Coach Curtis Smith, Gary and Mary Cook, Edith Taylor and Maxine Naylor.

**Pastor: Kent Dunford**

**Reporter: Barbara Spencer**



**STUDENT LEADERSHIP  
EWING NORTHERN SCHOOL CAMP**

## CAMP HOPE REPORT - Rural Ewing

It is a busy time here in the sticks of rural Ewing on this special place where God has and continues to work. We are looking forward to the summer and the 100's of young people and adults that will fill our camp. With that we need to make sure our camp is ready and clean. If your church is cleaning or has cleaned thank you so much for all the hard work to make our camp a wonderful place. Without the many volunteers we could not do the things God has called us to do.

There are a few exciting things I want you to know about that has happened at camp. We Applied for a Grant through Free Will Baptist Foundation and will receive an amount that we requested at the National Convention. I am very grateful for this wonderful gift.

With that being said, if your church wants to continue to help with a financial gift, we will still be needing funding to help with the completion of the projects we have planned. Thank you to all that have helped and continue to help.

On May 8th we were blessed with a work group. The Student Leadership from Ewing Northern School Camp arrived at the camp at 8:30. Upon Arrival we had prayer for the work to be done and safety. Here is a list of the tasks the leadership accomplished on this day. They stacked wood at the fire pit, they cleaned all the chairs in the chapel, they picked up sticks in every area on the camp grounds and in the wooded areas that were mowed, they roasted hot dogs and had lunch on the grounds, they helped remove and fold the pool cover, and they played a very competitive game of human foosball. A big thank you to the parents that came and worked, Brother Nick Price for leading the trip and to the Ewing Northern School for training young people to be Leaders in their community.

We are also working on placing some low platform obstacles in the woods on the south side of the property. We have cleared the area, mowed, and are getting ready to set them in place. Tim Pierce and Tom Harmon have been working on these improvements with the hopes of using some of them for leadership training and group activities. Above all teaching young people to work together to perform challenges will enable them in the future as they fulfill God's plan for their lives. I am excited about the improvements and the steps the Camp Board is making to help people attending our camp to hear, feel, and answer God's call on their lives.

**Reporter: Jason Janus**

**Camp Board: Bryant Harris, Brad Ryan, Corey Penn, Tim Pierce and Brandon Dwyer**

## **NEW HOPE CHURCH – Rural Ina**

We are pleased to announce that two young men have made their decision to accept Jesus as their savior. They are Lawson Gray and Ty Pierce. Two new members have been added to the church. Shirley and Teresa Hancock were given the right hand of fellowship on April 30th.

Our youth had a fundraising dinner and an afternoon of games and devotion at Camp Hope. A Friday Night Insights will be held every other Friday night from 6 - 9 p.m. It will be held at the New Hope School. All neighborhood children are welcome. May 12th was our first one.

On May 5th a fundraiser was held for Josh and Fallon Ellis. Josh will be going to the Mayo Clinic. Please continue to pray for his journey and stay there. Those who attended the WAC State Meeting at Bear Point Church were: Marcella Smith, Brenda Fowler, Jackie Capps, Tonyia Neal, and Martha Payne.

Our 2017 graduates are: Hayden Smith - Masters from Murray State; Makayla Smith -BA from SIU; Esther Smith - Associates Degree in Art from Rend Lake; Austin Capps - 8th grade, Opdyke-Belle Rive; and Jersey Lea and Hadleigh Fowler from kindergarten. All three Smith's graduated on the same day! A graduation party was held for the Smith's at the fellowship hall at New Hope on May 13th.

I wish to thank everyone for their prayers for Brother Raymond Capps. He is at home, but still needs your prayers. As we say at New Hope: *"God is good, all the time. All the time, God is good."*

**Pastor: Craig Smith**

**Reporter: Jackie Capps**

## **BEAR POINT CHURCH – Rural Sesser**

Happy Father's Day to all the fathers.

We are praying for the family of Sister Fern Price. She graduated to her heavenly home on April 15. She was a faithful member of our church until she had to move closer to her family a few years ago.

Shawn and Samantha had an Easter egg hunt for our youth on Saturday April 15. All who attended had a good time, got lots of eggs, candy and gifts.

Our young people did very well at State CTS Competition and some are preparing to go on to the National in July. We are very proud of them and all the effort of learning the scriptures and using their talents for the Lord.

The youth sponsored a soup and potato bar to help raise funds in going to the National on Sunday April 30. Praise the Lord we met our goal of \$2,000 for World Missions Offering.

Our women hosted the WAC state meeting on Saturday May 6.

Bear Point brought home trophies for first and second place in the fishing tournament on May 13. The team of Katie Mygatt and Pearson Launius with 84.25 got first place. The team of Colton Payne and Nate Ragland with 82.25 got second place. Congratulations to these young people.

All mothers on Mother's Day received a flower. Special gifts went to Jean Ragland oldest, Kelsey Szczeblewski youngest, Marj Bunton and Ella Webb tied with most family present.

**Pastor: Larry Cook**

**Reporter: Linda Cook**

## **HAZEL DELL CHURCH - Rural Sesser**

There were 26 in attendance for our annual Easter sunrise service. Brother David Harrison shared the "Resurrection Story" with us. A great breakfast was prepared and served by our Master's Men. There was a good crowd in attendance for our morning worship service.

Our Peppy Calebs met for lunch at the church on April 27<sup>th</sup>. Brother Jim and Sister Peg LeVault provided the main course for the meal. Brother Danny Sample gave a devotion. There were 10 in attendance.

A good offering was received for the World Missions on April 30<sup>th</sup>.

There were 71 in attendance for our Mother's Day Service. The Master's Men presented each mother with a gift of appreciation.

Congratulations to all the 2017 Graduates. A list of our graduates will be provided in our next newsletter.

*"Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace,  
that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." - Hebrews 4:16*

**Pastor: Larry Clyatt**

**Reporter: Diana Kirk**

## **BLUE POINT CHURCH – Rural Cisne**

Our CTS competitors all presented their entrees at our church on a Sunday evening. The following weekend they all competed at the state CTS competition in Ina. Noah Hill played the piano and sang a song. Hadley Walker presented an individual drama. Colin Waller did 12th Grade Bible memorization, and Ellie Hill sang a solo. They all did an excellent job. Brother Ernie moderated much of the Bible and Suzanne served as a judge. Several from the church traveled down to watch our competitors.

Brother Ernie gave a mission report at the Illinois State Women Active for Christ meeting held at Bear Point. Shane Davison gave the morning devotion and sang a special for the offertory. Suzanne served on the credentials committee. Joy Davison was the morning speaker.

Our annual Mother-Daughter Banquet was held that evening in the Link. Beth and Maddie Bowen beautifully decorated the tables and Christal Lewis made four cakes for dessert. Joy was also the speaker for the banquet.

Brother Ernie preached the Homecoming Service for the Harmony FWB Church in West Frankfort. In his absence Larry Ohms of the Calvary Church filled our pulpit.

S.W.A.G., our Wednesday night youth program, ended in May. On the last night Steve Spicer and Shannon Hosick grilled out hamburgers and hotdogs for everyone. The youth also enjoyed a delicious sundae bar. Special thanks to Joyce Kingsbury for coordinating the kitchen throughout the year.

Our Sunday school classes volleyball Tournament concluded with a three way tie and a playoff one Sunday evening after church. Our High School S.S. class defeated the Young Professionals class in the championship match. Pizza and an ice cream bar were enjoyed by all who stayed to cheer. We appreciate the participation by all classes and the wonderful crowds who watched each week.

Congratulations go to Nic Allison and Jenna Montgomery on their recent wedding. We would also like to congratulate our graduates. Chloe Byars received her bachelor's degree from the University of Southern Indiana. Logan Hosick and Zack Allison received associate degrees from Wabash Valley College. Madison Smith received her degree from Frontier Community College and Haylee Walker received hers from Olney Central College. Cisne High School graduates from Blue Point were Marissa Byars and Ruth Marie Simmons. Cisne Middle School graduates included Bailey Hacker, Maddie Bowen, Lauren Grace Conard, and Whitney Simmons. Colin Waller completed high school with his home school curriculum. We are proud of all our young people.

**Pastor: Ernie Lewis**

**Reporter: Suzanne Lewis**

## **THE ILLINI INITIATIVE – Champaign/Urbana**

With the month of May comes great gladness and sadness. We have had a great semester with international students this year. This was the most well attended English Corner spring semester that we have had. We had many visiting scholars from all over the world like Italy, Turkey, Egypt, Japan, Germany, and Ecuador. It has been a great year of getting to know these people and to share some of life experiences with them. The sadness comes with the fact that many of these students leave and will not return. We pour ourselves into them and then away they go. It is sad sometimes but we know that there is a whole group of new students coming and it is always exciting to see whom God will direct our way.

The highlight of this semester was definitely Easter. We took 8 students to church with us and had 11 over for Easter dinner. Out of the 8 we took to church, 7 of them had never been before. One lady who is a professor in China talked about the experience being powerful. She has a student back in China who is a Christian and she mentioned she never understood his feeling till now. She will be with us this summer and we are hoping for exciting conversations of faith ahead.

There is not much of a summer break for us. We will have some students who stick around for the summer to minister to. We also have two summer interns with us this summer learning about our ministry. It will be a very busy couple of months but it will be filled with very fun events and hopefully very gospel filled moments.

Thank you so much for your continued prayer and financial support of our family and our students. We get the opportunity to serve some really great people, but for the most part they know nothing of Jesus. We are so thankful that we can give our lives to telling more people around the world about the good news of Jesus. May our lives be all about Jesus because Jesus is what life is all about. - **Brother TylerPenn**

**Note to Church Treasurers: Send all monies for the Illinois State Association to our new State Treasurer:  
Michael Johnston . 13166 Lake Benton Road . Benton, Illinois 62812**

# Illinois Free Will Baptist June 2017 Newsletter

Illinois State Association of Free Will Baptists  
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Note to Reporters: Please address all correspondence for the Illinois Newsletter to:  
David Shores 25 Edgewood Road Mount Vernon, Illinois 62864 or by e-mail to: [davids@mvfreewillbaptist.org](mailto:davids@mvfreewillbaptist.org).  
The deadline for articles for the July issue is June 15.

## JOHNSTON CITY CHURCH

Our men prepared and served a pancake breakfast for the women on Mother's Day. They were the first to use the new commercial range and icemaker that we installed recently. These will be very helpful for Lunch Bunch when we serve free lunches and provide activities June 5-August 4, 11:30-12:30 weekdays, for the children of our community. Adults are welcome to attend too, and we can pick up those who need a ride in our new bus, even those in wheelchairs. The Lunch Bunch Kick-Off Celebration will be Saturday, June 3, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm in the church parking lot. We will have inflatable games, carnival booths, hot dogs, and lots more. Come and bring the whole family for a great time.

May 7 was Friend Sunday. I (Reba) invited over 40 people at the rehab, but nearly everyone had to work and couldn't come. We still had a great crowd, almost as many as came Easter Sunday. Christian comedian Trevor Thomas was our special guest. Parts of his program were funny and others were serious, but he ended with an altar call and the Spirit moved several to come forward. Right before we dismissed for lunch, he left us in stitches with his encore, "Mississippi Squirrel Revival."

April was a busy month with our choir singing at the Palm Sunday community service sponsored by the Johnston City Ministerial Alliance. They also sang some beautiful songs Easter morning and the Sunday after that when we served communion. Johnston City had 11 inches of rain the weekend of April 30, and we had to work hard to keep our church basement from flooding. The pastor and deacons installed a new sump pump and that helped bring the water down. We managed to take up our World Missions Offering that day even though we had to cancel the men and women's fellowships that evening.

We extend our sympathy to Rick and Cheryl Hammontree, who are our church custodians. Rick lost his daughter Cassandra in a terrible car accident May 3.

On a personal note, I have been reading my Bible through and have found two places where my name is mentioned: Numbers 31:8 and Joshua 13:21.

**Pastor: Keith Fletcher**

**Reporter: Reba Ritter**