



# Newsletter

## ILLINOIS STATE ASSOCIATION MEETS AT PEACE CHURCH Granite City, Illinois – March 15-17

### PROGRAM

#### Thursday, March 15, 2018 -7:00pm

Christian Education Seminar

**Theme: Christianity Is Working Beyond Me**

Speaker: Dr. Robert Picirilli

Two Sessions: Hebrews 10:24 & Eph. 4:15-16

#### Friday, March 16, 2018 – 8:15 am

Registration and Fellowship

9:00 am - Opening Hymn

Invocation

Welcome: Brother Cory Penn

Call to order by Clerk

Recognize Standing Delegates

District Reports and Seating of Delegates

Reports of Boards

National Departments

10:30 am -Recess

#### 11:00 am - Worship Service

Speaker: Dr. Robert Picirilli

**Lunch**

**Break**

**1:30 pm** - Devotion:

Reports of Boards and National Departments

Committee Reports

4:00 pm - Recess

**5:00 pm - Banquet:** Donations accepted

**7:00 pm - Worship Service**

Speaker: Dr. Robert Picirilli

#### Saturday, March 17, 2018 – 8:30 am

Registration and Fellowship

**9:00am - Business Session**

Moderator's Message: Bro. Curtis Smith

Reports of Boards and Departments

Committee Reports

Final Report of Business Committee

Elect Delegates to National Association

(Little Rock, Arkansas July 22-25, 2018)

Final Report of Nominating Committee

**11:00am - Worship Service**

Speaker: Brother Brad Ryan

**12:15 pm - Adjournment**

### CALVARY CHURCH REVIVAL and PASTORAL SEMINAR

**Pastor: Harlen Johnson**



**JIM MULLIN**

Revival Services and Pastoral Seminar! Want a fresh reviving of the soul? Want to hear sound Biblical preaching? Want to hear about how to remain healthy as a pastor? Plan to join us at Calvary Free Will Baptist Church the first weekend in March! All are invited to attend Calvary Free Will Baptist Church Revival Services on March 2-4, 2018. Brother Jim Mullin will be our guest evangelist. Services will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. Sunday services will be at 10:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

There will be a Pastoral Seminar on Saturday, March 3rd from 9am-12pm visiting the topic of "Pastoral Health." Registration will begin at 9:00 with first session beginning at 9:30 a.m. The church will provide a brunch between sessions. Rev. Jim Mullin, a Welch Alumni, has pastored for 20 years. He has also served the Billy Graham Evangelist Association for 20 years where he served on the Evangelistic Team full time. He participated in JAARS (a Bible and Translation Development ministry) for two years, where he served as Strategic Giving Officer. Brother Jim has preached and shared the gospel in many different avenues for over 40 years.

## **ILLINI INITIATIVE**

**Campus Missionary: Tyler Penn**

I am a person who loves living in Illinois because I love the four seasons. I have this conversation often with international students, about the seasons. I have found that many of them prefer the spring because of its moderate temperature. I am a fall guy myself but really enjoy them all. I can't help but think of some of my students who are enjoying snow and this super crazy cold for the first time.

We are entering another new season for the English Corner. We will meet another group of new students to start this semester and start the process of blending them with the students from last semester. It is a great time of year to spark new relationships and refresh older ones. We can't wait to see what this year brings or rather who this year brings to our family, to our ministry, to our Savior.

We have some prayer requests to ask for people to pray for.

Pray for the start of the Bridge FWB church. We are really excited for this to take place this year.

Pray for our Super bowl event at our house. This is our first major event of the spring semester and it really connects us in with the new students.

Pray for Easter service that is coming up in April. This is one of the biggest days of our ministry and we would love to have it soaked in prayer.

Finally pray for our Bible Study this semester. Last semester was our best bible study in our ministry and we hope to build off it.

We are so thankful for all of you and all the time devoted in prayer for us. We really excited to see what this year brings for the Kingdom. May God bless all of you this year and may it be for His glory.

## **CONNECT CHURCH**

**Pastor: Dan Smith Reporter: Shirley Brown**

Greetings from Connect Church. Just like everyone else in the Brotherhood, Connect Church was super busy during December with the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season-preparing to celebrate the anniversary of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ! Here are some of the activities in which we, as a church body, participated:

December 3: The Annual Benevolence Dinner and Auction fundraiser netted nearly \$3,500 for the Benevolent Fund.

December 12: Connect2Missions ladies group held a Christmas get together in lieu of the regularly scheduled meeting and a good time was had by all (husbands included).

December 13: Packing 50 Christmas baskets and Christmas cookie fellowship, following regular Wednesday night Bible Study. Then, on December 14-15, the baskets were distributed to 50 needy families in the community. This mission project includes not only food to feed a family for several days while children are out of school, but also provides toys for children 18 and under, as well as personal hygiene items for the family. It is a true joy to be able to see the faces of the folks who receive these baskets! Indeed, it is more blessed to give than to receive.

December 17: The December business meeting discussed and passed the 2018 Church Budget.

December 24: Began at 9:00 am with a Christmas breakfast hosted by Brother Dean and Sister Rose Evans. The Belgium waffles were great! The Christmas Eve Morning Worship service began with a children's program, followed by the Praise and Worship Team singing various Christmas carols. Pastor Dan gave a moving sermon, followed by Communion and a candlelight service and congregational singing of Christmas carols. The attendance for the service was 202! Praise God for His continued blessings!

December 31: What a way to end the year – worshipping together. We look forward to the New Year and seeing what God has planned for Connect Church in 2018.

## **ARNOLD VIEW CHURCH**

**Pastor: Ivan Ryan Reporter: Buddy Parks**

Average Sunday School attendance during December was 81. The average for 2017 was also 81. We thank Carolyn Gray and Jane Henry the Poinsettia orders and getting them delivered and placed in our church. Our Christmas Program, "Santa's Christmas Party", was held on December 10. Greg and Teressa Penninger and Gloria Newcom joined our church on December 17. Rick and Mayme Leukering joined our church on December 31. Brother Alan Summers passed away on December 22. Condolences to his family.

*. "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God." - 1 John 4:7*

## **BLUE POINT CHURCH**

**Pastor: Ernie Lewis Reporter: Suzanne Lewis**

Our sanctuary and the Link were both beautifully decorated during the Christmas season. We also had our large rustic nativity scene set up in the Cisne Park. The Junior Church Christmas program entitled, "Christmas in Kid City", was presented to a large congregation on a Sunday morning. Thanks to our directors, Bill and Christal Lewis for their tireless work.

Our annual Candlelight Service was a blessing to the many who attended. Several from the church participated with special songs, readings, or instrumental pieces. After this service we had a very special fellowship in the Link. On New Year's Eve we gathered in the Link to enjoy a fellowship and many different games.

Brother Ernie was able to attend the recent Pastor's Breakfast in Mt. Vernon at the Country Pride Restaurant. These breakfasts are held the first Monday of every month for pastors, church leaders, and their wives who are able to attend. Rusty Carney attended this month's breakfast and gave a brief update on their ministry in Japan. He was able to bring his dad, Dr. Randall Carney.

We have several from our church who have special opportunities coming up. Jon Hill, a student at Randall University, will be going to Bulgaria on a summer mission trip with CMP. Harrison Walker is participating with E-TEAM France. Ellie Hill will be serving with E-TEAM Nashville. Bailey Hacker has been accepted to be a part of Truth and Peace 2018.

## **PITTSBURG CHURCH**

**Pastors: Eddie Donelson and Keith McDannel Reporter: Hollie Utley**

Praying this February update finds everyone healthy and avoiding all of the sickness going around! Catching up on a few events we've had since our last newsletter... We finished up December with our Kid's Christmas Program... we had a great night watching all of our young people show their talents celebrating the birth of Jesus! The littlest ones from the nursery all the way up through 5<sup>th</sup> grade participated!

On December 23, we held a free Christmas lunch at the Pittsburg Village Hall as a community wide outreach. We had a great turnout and look forward to hosting it again next year! January was a much needed slow-down for PFWBC. We had our monthly skate night for the youth at Emery Bros. Skating Rink in Marion and will have another one this month. Everyone always has a great time at skate night!

Preparations are being made for the Love Banquet/Sweet Tooth Auction this month. The men of PFWBC always prepare a wonderful meal. Following the meal, we have a live auction to raise money for our Youth Group mission fund. We are looking forward to another great year of laughs and competition as our auctioneer works hard to sell all the desserts at top price!! Blessings to all, and we will catch up next month!

## **HAZEL DELL CHURCH**

**Pastor: Larry Clyatt Reporter: Diana Kirk**

Wishing all of you a happy and blessed New Year! We trust that the Lord will keep you safe and warm during the cold days we are experiencing.

A Christmas Candlelight Service was held on Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>. Several members gave readings associated with the Christmas celebration. Special music was given by Kaleb Miller, Brother Clyatt and Bethany Sink (daughter of Brother Larry and Sister Peggy). It was a lovely service with one of the highlights being the children's presentation of the manger scene. Those participating were Molly and Zach Harrison, children of Doug and Diana Harrison, and AnnaBelle and Walker LeVault, children of Jon Paul and Jennifer LeVault. It was precious!! These children were joined by Anna Belle Gunter, daughter of Brian and Angie Gunter, on the morning of December 24<sup>th</sup> for the repeat of the manger scene. Awesome job, kids!!

The Men's Breakfast prayer group met for their monthly meeting on Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup> with 7 present. Brother Rusty Miller gave the devotion.

Please continue to pray for our shut-ins: Gearld Hamilton, Frances McNeal and Wilma Cockrum.

*"Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us." - Romans 5:5*

## NEW HOPE CHURCH

**Pastor: Craig Smith Reporter: Jackie Capps**

As several of our sister churches do, people from our congregation went Christmas caroling. Due to the location of the church, we went to two nursing homes in Benton, the Lifeboat Alliance and a nursing home in Mt. Vernon, as well as some private homes.

On Christmas Day, 108 people gathered to celebrate the birth of Christ. The older children participated in a skit called "Christmas Day Saves the Grinch". Younger children acted out the birth of Jesus. There were sheep, a donkey, a camel, angels and of course Joseph and Mary with baby Jesus. The innkeeper was stern about the inn being full, but offered Joseph and Mary a stable.

In January, approximately forty parents and children spent the night in Indiana and went to the Great Splash Adventure the next day.

Our New Years Eve service was a special event. Brother Smith would read a verse of scripture, then we would sing a song that pertained to it. After this an old fashioned handshake, a blessing from 2017 and a prayer request for 2018 was written on paper. We ended the service holding hands in prayer. Following the service we enjoyed food and games.

May we all start and end 2018 with prayer that we will have boldness to witness for God.

*"And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." – John 12:32*

## BEAR POINT CHURCH

**Pastor: Larry Cook Reporter: Linda Cook**

On December 16 the young adult couples and singles and family had a Christmas party at the home of Jessica and Johnny Hollis.

Sunday night December 17 was our Christmas program. Our young people did a wonderful job on presenting the program and Brother Larry had a devotion. We had good attendance and afterwards had fellowship.

On December 20 we went caroling and also the J-Walkers had a Christmas party at the church. The teens had their Christmas party at the home of Kelley and Alan Hicks on December 22.

We are blessed to have Jessica and Johnny Hollis and family join our church on December 24. Looking forward to seeing how God is going to use them in our church.

Congratulations to Beth and Justin Mandrell on the birth of Louisa June on December 29.

Congratulations to Abby and Anthony Lowery on the birth of Ava Lynn on January 4.

## OAK VALLEY CHURCH

**Pastor: Richard Brown Reporter: Marie Rutger**

Greetings from our church as we begin the new year of 2018. We pray the Lord blesses all of you richly as we journey through this new year.

We have had a busy holiday beginning with our Harvest Party November 19<sup>th</sup>, our Christmas Program and noon lunch in December with 75 attending. Our "DOG's Sunday School class supper was January 3<sup>rd</sup>

We have lost 2 of our longtime members this winter - Brother Glen Byars in October and Sister Betty June Hilliard in January 2018. We miss them very much and ask your prayers for the families. Some new families have started attending so we thank Him for these blessings also.

Our youth enjoyed a skating party in December, the same evening we went to Brookstone for our regular worship time with them the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month.

The Geff "Hope Ministries" have helped many this winter, and we thank Brother Richard for this ministry in our community.

The East Central District meeting at Mt. Vernon scheduled for January 13<sup>th</sup> had to be postponed till the 20<sup>th</sup> because of the weather.

*"O Lord! You are my God, I will exalt you and praise your name" - Isaiah 25:1*

*You are one  of God's favorite Valentines!*

## RESCUE CHURCH

**Pastor: Bryant Harris Reporter: Donna Harmon**

Happy New Year from all of us at Rescue. Brother Bryant brought a wonderful Christmas message on December 17<sup>th</sup> which was followed by a dinner and gift exchange. We also met on Christmas Eve for worship. We closed out the year with a New Year's Eve service and fellowship.

On January 7<sup>th</sup> we had our Business Meeting, then we had a big day on January 9<sup>th</sup> when Tuesday School resumed. Thanks to everyone who takes time to help Ms Melinda.

Please pray for: Dwayne Sink who is recovering from surgery, Cathy Lingle who is a patient at Good Samaritan Hospital in Mt. Vernon, and pray for Jay and Emily who are in Barnes Hospital because of pregnancy complications.

Our condolences to the family of Grace Young who had a long, hard battle with cancer. Dad, mother, sisters and brothers never left her side. They are such a devoted family. Brother Bryant held the funeral services and the church served a dinner to the family.

Also, we extend our condolences the family of Venita Kern. Venita was devoted lady who served our church as she spent her life worshipping the Savior, taking care of our books and cleaning the building. For many years she and Irma Lee Conner spent one day a week working together taking care of the church. She had all her funeral arrangements written down for Brother Bryant to follow. This special lady will be greatly missed as she has gone to be with her Savior. The church provided a dinner for the family.

## JOHNSTON CITY CHURCH

**Pastor: Keith Fletcher Reporter: Reba Ritter**

December 31, Brother Keith introduced our 2018 theme, "All Things New" (Rev. 21:5). He has continued preaching on this topic since the first of the year, and we are introducing new ministries and refreshing present programs with new ideas.

One new idea that worked out very well was Winter Vacation Bible School (December 27-29). We averaged 42 students and had a high attendance Friday of 46. Volunteers from 6 local churches helped us with teaching, crafts, music, games, transportation, and food. Everyone had such a good time that we have scheduled another 3-day VBS during spring break (March 26-28). Our children's director, Marta Phillips, shared this vision with the Johnston City Ministerial Alliance and received a very positive response. The theme will be the "Road to the Resurrection." If you'd like to help, please let us know.

We relaunched the REACH Student Discipleship Ministry, Wednesday, January 10. We've changed our format and some class arrangements. We still serve supper at 6:30, but at 7:00 students gather in the auditorium for worship and the "master teacher's" lesson. Then at 7:30, they break into small groups based on the school they attend and work with leaders who reinforce the lesson, answer questions, and help students learn the memory verse. Our new curriculum is a doctrinal series entitled, "What We Believe."

It was so icy January 14, that we dismissed Sunday school and the evening service, but several of us still gathered at the church for morning worship. Since so many were unable to attend in person, we broadcast the service on Facebook Live. By Monday afternoon, the post had reached over 600 people and 263 had viewed the video. If you would like to watch our service too, go to [facebook.com/jc1fwb](https://facebook.com/jc1fwb).

Our church will host the next "Fifth" Sunday Night Community Sing, January 28, at 6:00. Local churches will provide special music and we'll enjoy a fellowship supper afterward. About 100 people have attended the last two community sing events.

I (Reba) have been sick for the past few weeks and have not been able to attend services at church, but I was able to attend some of the Christmas activities at Integrity and finished reading the Bible through on December 29. I resolved to do that again in 2018. I challenge you to do the same. I had much more to say about what happened to me last month and there isn't enough room in the newsletter for it all. My pastor agreed to put my unedited article on the church's Facebook page so everyone could read it.

*"Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?" - Matthew 6:25*

**Note:** The Camp Hope summer calendar and youth camp schedules have been mailed to all our churches, be sure to post the dates on your church bulletin board.

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

*Note to Church Reporters: News items for the March issue of the Newsletter must be submitted by February 15<sup>th</sup>.  
Send all correspondence to David Shores: [davids@myfreewillbaptist.org](mailto:davids@myfreewillbaptist.org).*

**IGNITE THE FLAME DINNER for WELCH COLLEGE**  
**A time to give to college to help train students for gospel ministry**



**Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup> – 6:00 pm**  
**In a Free Will Baptist Church**  
**Have your church to attend and bring a gift for the college**

