



Illinois Newsletter

OCTOBER 2019

CHURCH REPORTS AND NEWS OF THE ILLINOIS STATE ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

Our Pastor

You *lead* our congregation by opening God's Word, and then you *live* your life reflecting all we've heard.

You *care* for others deeply and lift them up in *prayer*, and when we face misfortune, we know that you'll be there.

We really love you, Pastor, for *everything* you do.

And we thank God for giving us a *Pastor like you.*

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CELEBRATE PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH DURING OCTOBER

Note: Send us a note and tell us what you did to make Pastor Appreciation Day special at your church.

THE BRIDGE CHURCH

Pastor: Jamie Lee

Lee Family Update:

Our kids are back to school. Jaden is in 5th grade, Caleb is in 1st grade, Peyton is in Kindergarten, and Greyson is still in diapers. The front part of August was really busy for us, so one night we decided to camp in the backyard with the boys. It was a lot of fun! With the orange and blue, the Illini football team kicked off their season and as we have the past 3 years, I took the oldest two to the game.

Where We Are:

August brought an exciting month as we had our first official church picnic. We had a great crowd and so many connected with each other. The Bridge Church donated 85 backpacks to one of the area schools and participated in their back to school event. This opened a door into the future as both of the principals are interested in attending one of our services to thank Bridge Church for their generosity.

I am personally mentoring/discipling 4 individuals. It has been awesome to see how they have grown, matured, and stepped in.

Where We Are Going:

By the time you have read this newsletter, we will have celebrated one year as the Bridge Church in Champaign! It is hard to believe we have reached this point. We have grown throughout the summer and it has given us momentum. In October we are launching small groups for the very first time. We are really excited as this is one more step in helping equip our people to build a solid foundation in their life and for the Bridge Church.

ILLINI INITIATIVE

Pastor/Leader: Tyler Penn

This new school has started off with a lot of good energy. We had nearly 70 students at the opening cookout for the English Corner. This group of students seems to have a outgoing quality about them. We always excited to see what new students are going to connect in with us each year, and this year is no different. I am so grateful to have the opportunity to come along side of them and be a fiend, someone to help them with English and American culture, and to be able to share the gospel of Jesus with them.

One new thing we are doing this semester that we are super thrilled about is family connections with families from the Bridge Church. We have about 7 families who are willing to host 2 or 3 international students for monthly get gatherings. This is amazing! Nineteen students will now get to be loved on not just by our family but by many families. We are so excited because this is a part of our initiative here. We want to have multiple families involved with international students to create multiple pathways of faith.

The Bridge FWB Church just celebrated its first birthday this past Sunday, September 15th. This day was so good to see, to see families who are now in church who were not in church before, to see kids everywhere, and to have conversations with different people about their involvement in international students. We are so grateful for all who have been supportive of this effort and to see the process at work at one year is really amazing. Please continue to pray as we continue to come along side Jamie as he leads the Bridge Church to growing more disciples of Jesus. Thank you everyone who thinks of us, who seeks out ways to encourage our ministries here in Champaign.

FIRST CHURCH – MOUNT VERNON

Pastor: David Shores Associate Pastor: Craig Smith

Our church had a busy summer with several people working in various capacities to serve the Lord. John Donovan was baptized on a recent Sunday morning. Please pray for his new life in Christ.

Some of our folks serve meals on Friday afternoon to a rather large group of people, as many as 162! Lesa Morlan, Kathy Wilson, Tyler Hill, Ed Morlan, Boston Lomax plus some others are usually there each week to prepare the meals, serve the meals, then mop and clean the kitchen. Ladies from our church also help by baking cakes and desserts.

The Master's Men have been mowing, cleaning yards, washing houses, clearing brush and doing other hard jobs. They are planning a cookout in October and will invite the church to come and eat.

Brother David, Brother Craig, Tommy Stief, Ed Ferguson and Katie Cross attended the Teachers Workshop at Ina.

Brother Craig Smith has been teaching a New Members Class during the Sunday School hour.

The Women Active for Christ has monthly meetings and has been working to raise money for missions. They support the World Missions Offering plus raising support for Illinois missionaries. The ladies had a "Silent Auction" recently and were pleased to raise over \$1,100 for their missions projects. Sarah Malone spoke at a recent Sunday Morning Service and they had an offering to present to her.

Sister Joe Ann Dudley passed away recently and the ladies had a meal for her family. Most of her family lives outside the Mount Vernon area. Also, Kenneth Corbett, brother of Eugene Corbett passed away. Our condolences to these families.

Brother David and Brother Craig attended the East Central District meeting in Decatur. Our church is to host the next meeting of the district in October.

Various people lead monthly devotional/ prayer meetings at Countryside Manor, Green Tree Residential Center and a weekly Thursday morning Prayer Meeting at the church. Brother Carl Bradford sings with the Southern Illinois Homecoming Choir and Brother David and Sister Pat Shores attended their program in August at the Blue Point Church, then when they sang in Mount Vernon in September, several from the church attended their program at Logan Street Baptist Church.

HAZEL DELL CHURCH

Pastor: Curtis Smith Reporter: Diana Kirk

Happy Fall everyone. Anxiously awaiting the cooler temperatures and the beauty of the fall foliage.

Congratulations to Brother Jim and Sister Linda Robbins on the birth of their new great granddaughter. Audrey Marie Robbins was born on August 16th. She is the daughter of Conner and Sadie Robbins. Conner is the son of Corey Robbins.

The Peppy Calebs met at Burton's Café for their August luncheon on Thursday, August 22nd. There were 12 in attendance.

We would also like to congratulate Alex and Paige Owens on the birth of their new daughter, Aspyn Renee, who was born on August 25th. She is the granddaughter of Mark and Gena Petro, and the great granddaughter of Brother Danny and Sister Sharon Sample.

The Men's Prayer Breakfast group met for their monthly meeting on Sunday, September 1st.

On Sunday morning, September 15th, Brother Curtis recognized Sister Jackie Gulley on her recent selection to receive a prestigious award from Southern Illinois Healthcare for her dedication in going above and beyond in her work. What a witness Jackie is for the Lord! Congratulations, Sister Jackie!

We held an official "Welcome" Fellowship for Brother Curtis, Sister Emilee and family on Sunday, September 15th following the evening service. There was a good number of people in attendance, and as always some great food and fellowship. They received gifts of love in the form of gift cards and cash to show our appreciation for their choice to serve at Hazel Dell. May God grant us blessings as we work together in service for Him.

*"Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart,
be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer."- Psalm 19:14*

DISTRICT (Quarterly) MEETINGS SCHEDULED for OCTOBER:

East Central District – October 12 at Mt. Vernon Church; **Rend Lake District** – October 19 at Oak Grove Church

South Central District – October 24 at Harmony Church

Other districts may be meeting during the month but I do not have information on their date or location.

District clerks are encouraged to send in dates and meeting places for each district meeting to the Illinois Newsletter. – ed.

Does your church have a report in the Newsletter?

RESCUE CHURCH

Pastor: Bryant Harris Reporter: Donna Harmon

Hello from Rescue Church. Where did the summer go? It will be soon that we will be back to the rakes again, but no complaints from me. God has given us a great summer even with Ted, Jane, and Max all in the hospital at the same time. Max and Ted were back home quickly, but Jane had a longer stay. She went to the hospital on August 12, and came home September 3. We are very happy to have her home again as she recovers from surgery.

Those attending the Rend Lake District Meeting from our church included Jane and Tom Harmon, Ann Sink and Joyce and Ed Bland, and Brother Bryant. Joyce and Ed Bland are the parents of Karen Freeman and they have moved here to be close to their daughter. This being said, if you hear their name you will know who they are. We welcome them to our church.

Some of our August events include a cookout at the new church property and Tuesday School registration. Ms Melinda is going to have an attendance of 40. Look at how many little lives she and the workers are going to be blessed with this year!

Our condolences to the Nick Kniffen family. Nick passed away last month. He is our brother in law, and the father of Terold Kniffen.

Update on our new church. I love to look at Brother Bryant when he is finished working at the church and helps me with this report. With a big smile, he told me the installation is finished and most all the walls are framed up. Next month we will have news on the electric and plumbing.

I would like to mention the Ms Ann Sink. She makes it so easy for so many of us at church. Thanks and thanks again.

"What an awesome God we serve!"

PITTSBURG CHURCH

Pastors: Eddie Donnelson and Keith McDannel Reporter: Heather Phillips

We hope everyone had a good September and a wonderful start to the school year! Summer has officially gone and fall has arrived! The warmth of summer can still be felt, but the air is beginning to feel crisp. If you look closely, the leaves are beginning to turn from green to yellow, brown, orange, and red.

Our AWANA program started back up on Wednesday, September 4 and it was a great evening with almost 100 Clubbers in attendance! We are expecting that number to grow as the year starts to progress. The classes will be held on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:00pm throughout the school year. The program is open to any child between 2 years through 12th grade. Lots of helping hands and willing leaders make the program such a success! AWANA (Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed) is being used to reach over 4 million kids every week in 120 countries, giving young people from every background an opportunity to know, love and serve Jesus.

A favorite time of the year for many at PFWBC is Pastor Appreciation Month. So many great opportunities to lift them up in prayer, fellowship with other brothers and sisters, and enjoy breaking bread with one another are being planned this month. Even though we appreciate them and thank God every day for our wonderful pastors, we enjoy spoiling them a bit more during the month of October!

We will be celebrating our 112th Homecoming on Sunday, October 6. Following the service, we will have a fish fry meal and all of the 'fixings' to go along with it! Everyone is welcome to come and join us!

October is a very busy month here at PFWBC. We have so much to look forward to this month! We pray everyone is enjoying the beautiful scenery that only our Heavenly Father could create!

"I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds." - Psalm 9:1

ARNOLD VIEW CHURCH

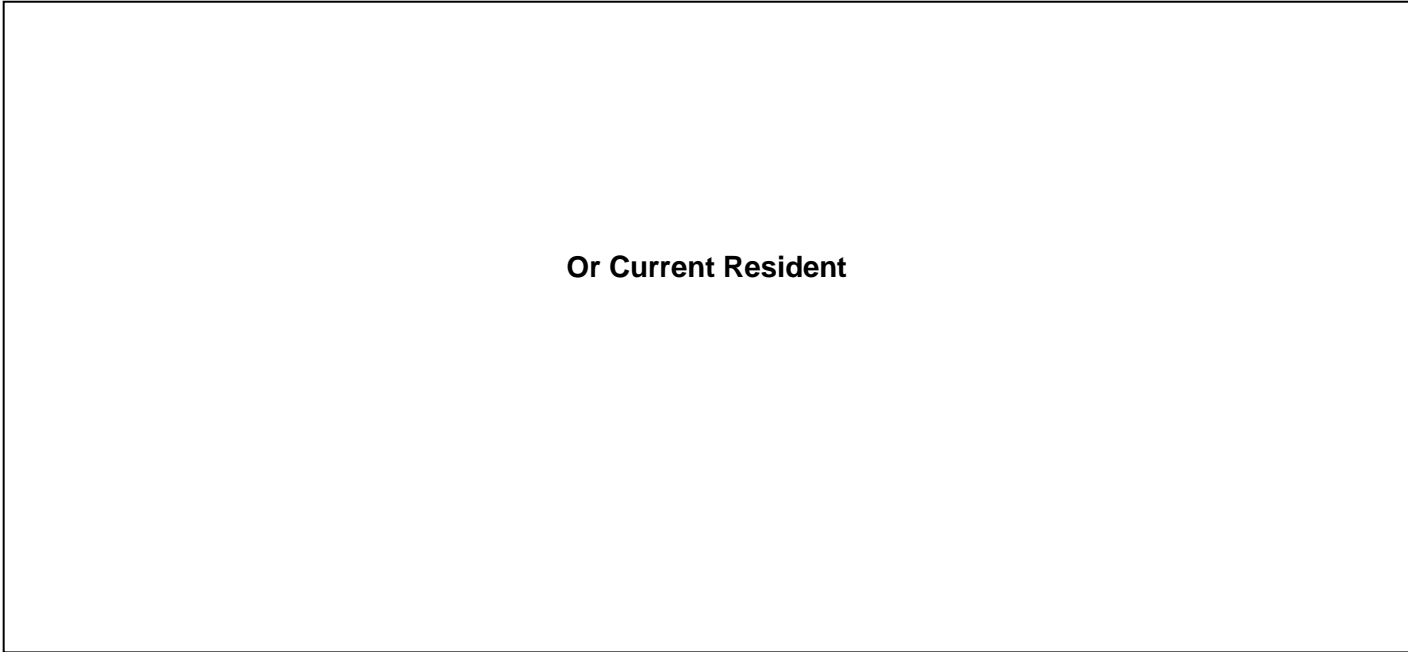
Pastor: Ivan Ryan Assistant Pastor: Adam Brown Reporter: Buddy Parks

Average Sunday School attendance during August was 89. Adam Brown, Colene Doss and Cathy Kirkpatrick attended the South Central Meeting on August 3 at Benton. Sidney Loyd was baptized on August 4. Brenda Beasley, 65, passed away on August 4. Condolences to this family.

Carol Chamness spoke about The Quilts of Valor program of the Little Egypt Quilters on August 11. Wayne Doss and Gale Mausey were presented with Quilts of Valor by Ann Collins and Charlene Morris. The Women Active for Christ Meeting was held on August 14. We visited with Wardena Furlow and Mary Frey at River to River for our shut-in service on August 11.

Sixteen from our church attended the Sunday School Teacher Training Workshop at Ina on August 17. Brother Adam Brown shared a message on August 25 before our ice cream fellowship. Brother Gene Parton brought the morning worship message on September 1. A group from our church viewed the film "Overcomer" at Marion that evening.

"And I will make them and the places round about my hill a blessing; and I will cause the shower to come down in his season; there shall be showers of blessing." - Ezekiel 34:26



Or Current Resident

*Note to Church Reporters: News items for the November issue of the Newsletter must be submitted by October 15th.
 Please send all articles to davids@myfreewillbaptist.org.*

BLUE POINT CHURCH

Pastor: Ernie Lewis Reporter: Suzanne Lewis

An extremely large crowd attended our special service highlighting the Southern Illinois Homecoming Gospel Choir. We fed the eighty plus choir members in the basement, then the service was held in the Link. We had over three hundred and fifty people come for the service. What a blessing it was to those who attended!

We cooked out for the Johnsonville Grade School Open House again this year. Hamburgers, hotdogs, chips and drinks were served to all the teachers, students, and parents. A group of twenty-six youth and four adults traveled to Mt. Vernon to see the Christian movie “Overcomer”.

“Connect” for our teens has resumed on Wednesday evenings in the home of Kevin and Beth Bowen.

Congratulations to Darrell and Bev Laughlin who recently celebrated their 50th Anniversary. At our monthly fellowship we enjoyed cake and ice cream to recognize the occasion.

We recently installed new flooring in our basement. The twenty-three old carpet was showing its age. We installed rigid vinyl plank flooring. We are also beginning the process of updating a couple of our bathrooms.

We offer our sympathy to the family of Bill and Christal Lewis. Bill’s dad, Danny Lewis, passed away from a massive heart attack. We also offer sympathy to the family of Chuck and Mary Johnston. Mary’s dad, Gary Warren, passed away after battling cancer.

MISSIONS NEWS:

These IM international missionaries are available for services at your church and may be reached by telephone:

Dennis & Carol Teague (France) 405-827-0664, **Tyler & Kellie Penn** (International Students) 217-521-7984,
Brenton & Debbie Driscoll (Bulgaria) 615-922-0551, **Jacob Austin** (THP-France) 615-806-9220,
Keren Delgado (Bulgaria) 479-747-4307, **Debbie Griffin** (Japan) 229-726-6001 **Jerry & Barbara Gibbs** 865-310-5433

The accounts of Illinois missionaries **Sarah Malone** and **Mark King** are very low. Both are home caring for their ailing mothers. Contact Ernie Lewis (618-838-6708) and the Illinois Board of Missions on how your church can help them.

NOVEMBER IS NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS OFFERING MONTH