



Newsletter

ADULT CAMP MEETING CANCELED

Greetings from the Adult Camp Board. It is with great sorrow that we have decided to cancel this year's Adult Camp Meeting scheduled for September 13-16 with Brother Eddie Moody. In light of the present state of affairs and with the blessing of Brother Moody we have rescheduled him for our meeting next year.

We would like to encourage each of you and all our churches to consider giving an offering to Camp Hope to help offset some of their lost income due to the cancellation of the summer camps. Thank you for your prayerful consideration of this and keep one another in your prayers.

Blessings,

Your Adult Camp Board

MASTER'S MEN RETREAT CANCELED

After long discussions and much great regret, the Master's Men Board decided to cancel the Master's Men Retreat scheduled for September 17-19 due to the Covid-19 issues. With so much uncertainty concerning crowds, masks, sanitation of buildings, social distancing, cancellations of other local events, and the virus itself, the Board that it best to cancel to keep everyone safe.

Since no youth camps were held this year at Camp Hope, our Board voted to donate \$1,000 to Camp Hope to use on pending projects.

RESCUE CHURCH

Pastor: Bryant Harris Reporter: Donna Harmon

FINALLY!--We are in our new building! Because of the Covid 19 restrictions, we had to have our last service at the old Rescue Church on March 8, 2020. Even though our new building was ready, we had to wait 11 weeks until May 24th to begin services! How good it was to be together again. We have been having good attendance with several visitors--who are no longer visitors. We will continue online services since they have been so well received. We are experiencing lots of changes but loving all the excitement. We are the same folks though, and hope you will come visit as soon as possible. *Interesting note: the day we moved in was our 110th anniversary. Isn't God surprising?*

What a challenging time everyone has experienced. We are thankful that God is in control. That keeps us on the bright side of everything that has changed. How special it is to realize how thankful we are for our church's friends and family. We have a love that is deeper and more precious. On a recent Saturday the sons of Duane and Ann Sink presented their Mom and Dad with a surprise 50th Anniversary celebration at the church. Their sons and their families did a great gathering to celebrate the occasion.

Brother Bryant is having Sunday Morning, Sunday Evening and Sunday School each week at the church, and Wednesday Evening service is being done through FaceBook. We are looking forward to Tuesday School beginning in October if all goes well. Ted Harmon was in the hospital again for a month. He is now home and doing much better. I think God works overtime for Ted and myself. I cannot express how thankful I am and how much all the cards, calls and visitors we have had mean to us. Thank you for all your prayers. *What an awesome God we serve!*



Members and friends visit in the lobby at our new church

A LETTER FROM THE TEAGUES IN FRANCE!

Hello Dear Friends!

We arrived back in France on March 8! There was a small welcoming party at the airport comprised of family, friends, and co-workers. As you can see it was a typical rainy, dreary day in Nantes. We didn't mind the weather; we were just so excited to make it back. That evening we were awake and feeling so good we went to church at La Haie Fouassière. We were wound up!! During our first week back we were able to visit with our children and their families. It was so wonderful to be back together after nine months apart. Grandchildren always change quickly, but especially when one doesn't see them often. We were giving ourselves a week before jumping into ministry, but unfortunately the virus had already made its appearance. Our plans for the next week came to a sudden halt. The weekend of March 15th it was already suggested that we limit meetings and we were even encouraged to stay at home. Tuesday the 17th it was lockdown! Sadly it was back to phones and the internet. So during the next two months we worked on correspondence through the internet because at that time the postal system here was not reliable. Otherwise like everyone else we did phone calls, video chats, zoom and skype meetings. Dennis continued to record sermons every week as he had done monthly in the US. We are definitely not techy people but with help we managed. We are so thankful to have a house with a yard so we could enjoy being outside some and doing some repair work, pulling weeds, and planting our small garden.



We realize that you lived through the same kind of confinement and managed like we did, so you totally understand our situation. May 11 things started opening up for us but with rules and regulations to follow. At the St. Nazaire church we are obligated to have two services in order to keep the distancing rules which limit us to 40 at a time. Gradually more of our people are attending plus some visitors have recently been coming. With the arrival of summer and the Christian vacationers who attend, we will probably need to keep having two services. Who knows the church may grow so much that even without the distancing two services will be needed!! The La Haie Fouassière church that we are a part of has been meeting in Joel's back yard when weather permits because our room is too little for the distancing. The best attended meeting included eleven adults and eight children. We were thankful that so many came.

After May 11th, we celebrated two family birthdays, mother's day and father's day, and we took a picture with the social distancing! We are so proud of and thankful for our three sons. During this time there have been sad events in many places, but we are thankful that God has been at work answering prayers, speaking to hearts and giving peace and comfort. Thank you so much for making it possible for us to be back and for being part of what we are trying to accomplish in France. May God bless you as you fit into his plan in your place of ministry.

Dennis and Carol Teague dennis.j.teague@gmail.com

BLUE POINT CHURCH

Pastor: Ernie Lewis Reporter: Suzanne Lewis

We were saddened at the passing of Robert Hilliard. Robert was a long-time deacon and member of Blue Point Church. We were able to host his funeral and serve a meal for his family in our facilities. We have now resumed all regular services: Sunday school, morning worship, and Sunday and Wednesday evening services.

Congratulations to Rebecca Smith and Nicholas Eckelberry who were recently married at Blue Point. We were able to recognize our seniors during a Sunday morning service. On behalf of the Kingdom Builders Sunday School class, Linda Spicer spoke briefly and presented a small gift certificate to all five graduates. We congratulate Ellie Hill for being presented with the Annual Bob and Doris Bozarth Memorial Scholarship provided by their family. Michael Bozarth came to a service to make the presentation.

Brother Ernie attended the modified "National" held in Nashville, Tennessee. He joined family members in watching the services online in the evening.

Our church participated in the Annual Cisne Reunion. We operated a Taco-in-a-Bag stand, had two girls participate in the pageant, and coordinated Children's Games on Saturday morning. We also participated in the parade, passing out items for adults and kids. Many thanks go to Bill and Christal Lewis for organizing these events.

ILLINI INITIATIVE

I know we are not the only ones who can say this has been a very different summer. Normally we would have spent several days at Camp Hope. Normally we would have had summer interns to get a taste of our ministry. Normally we would have taken international students fishing, camping, kayaking, and a host of all sorts of fun activities with them. We are all very familiar that this summer has not been normal.

So here is some news on what has transpired this summer with our ministry to the international student population at the University of Illinois. We have had many conversation group meetings over Zoom, the online face to face group platform. I was thrilled in late July that one of my conversation groups was fully on the topic of Jesus and grace. We were able to take two students from China fishing one evening. It was a great time and all caught a fish and Mason caught an 11 pound catfish. On the way home Madden said a prayer of thanksgiving for our food and it really had an impression on our students. One of them even said a thankful prayer for our evening together. I imagine this may be one of the first time's she has ever offered up a kind of prayer.

We tried to restart in person meetings for our English Corner larger group night on Thursdays night but it did not receive very good attendance as many of the students are still apprehensive about being around others. We did have a game night at our home that was attended by 6 students. It was a really good evening of connection with them. It felt like a breath of fresh air to have the students in our home again. It had been the longest we had gone in the last 8 years without having any students into our home.

The fall will also be a different map for us to try to navigate this year. We know many if not most international students who would be new this fall will be delaying their arrival by a semester if not a year. We expect the numbers to be really down this year. How it all trickles down to us, we are not sure yet. We do know that we will pour our hearts into the students that have stayed and are here and that we will do as much as we can with them within the covid regulations.

I thank you so much for your continued prayers and support of our family and ministry. I know these days have been so difficult for so many and the season continues. The family is well and looking forward to the day when normalcy begins to show itself. Thanks again. – **Campus Minister: Tyler Penn**

FIRST CHURCH – WALTONVILLE

Pastor: Mark Wells

We lost two great guys who went to be with the Lord in the past few months. We have started meeting on Wednesday night for Bible Study. Right now we are using our Sunday School quarterlies as the study.

We have some young men who have set us up for live streaming and they are doing a great job setting things up each week. The last Sunday of July our air conditioner went out, so we had our services in the Fellowship Hall. Again, the guys came together to get us going. They did a great job.

My wife and I have been blessed these past nine months as we have served as pastor. We look forward to what the Lord will do in the coming months and years. Each time I get up and preach for the Lord, I thank Him. I believe God has plans for us! Jeremiah 29:11 declares that He has plans our welfare, not calamity, and to give us a future and a hope!

Please keep us in your prayers as we go forward to the goals that God has set before us, that we will reach each and every one of them!

Tammy and I have had this song as our theme song since we started as the pastor here. It is by Elevation Worship, called, "Do It Again!" The words are powerful if you would just listen to them. I believe He can do it again!

HARMONY CHURCH

Pastor: Bruce Thurman Reporter: Cody Alstat

Hello from Harmony. We met on July 18th for our Master's Men and Sister of Strength meeting and had a Fish Fry. We want to thank everyone that was able to come out and enjoy the fellowship and for Brother Dick and Sister Kathy for providing the fish. We had our Yard Sale for CTS and it was a huge success, we want to thank everyone that helped out in any way. We had an awesome testimony service on August 2nd where you could feel the Lord throughout the service. Please continue to prayer for Dawn Marie and Jeff, Dawn is doing a whole lot better, but she still has a long road to recovery. Dawn was able to come home on August 3rd. Praise God! We are glad to hear that Bill and Joyce Treat are doing better and please remember to keep them in your prayers.

"For I know the thoughts that I think towards you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not evil, to give you an expected end." Jeremiah 29:11

FIRST CHURCH – BENTON

Pastor: Phillip Kennedy Reporter: Barbara Spencer

It seemed like forever, but we are back in the Sanctuary now. We thank all those who came out and gave the church a thorough cleaning before we had services on Aug. 9. We were happy to have been able to meet in the air conditioned gym, but the padded seats in the church were appreciated. Most of our members were faithful during this time except for those with health problems. We still maintain distancing. This covid virus seems to be worse in Franklin Co., so we must be in constant watch and prayer. Thanks to our musicians and Zeb for filming the services. Our students will be doing their college work from home. Pastor Phillip and the Zimmermans attended the quarterly meeting at Pittsburgh. Pray for everyone who has to work that they won't be subjected to the virus.

HAZEL DELL CHURCH

Pastor: Curtis Smith Reporter: Diana Kirk

Greetings from the folks at Hazel Dell. We pray that all are staying healthy and safe as we continue to try to return to some level of normalcy in our lives.

Our Sunday morning worship service at 10:30 a.m., with Children's Church ministry is up and running on schedule again. Sunday evening services are also being held, with our children's group meeting for their study time. Wednesday evening prayer/study time has resumed inside. For those still uncomfortable with attending in person, Brother Curtis is making online services available. Sunday mornings are being broadcast on the radio as well for those wishing to remain in their cars for service. Sunday school classes are set to resume in September. Our adult Sunday school classes will meet as a group in the fellowship hall where social distancing can be attained.

Please join us in praying for Liam Cannon as the family is awaiting more results from recent tests. Preliminary results were uplifting. Just waiting for final results. Liam is the 18 month old son of Brother Gowdy and Sister Kayla Cannon, and the grandson of Brother Mike and Sister Pat Sample. Prayers are appreciated.

Please remember the family of Brother Arlie Galloway in your prayers. Brother Arlie passed away on August 17th following a lengthy illness. He had been a member of Hazel Dell since 1967.

Others on our prayer list include: Brother Brian Lewis-having more scans this week, Brother Denny Dial-recovering from open heart surgery, Sister Len Jones-current health issues and our senior adults-many miss being in church fellowship due to health and/or social distancing. God's blessings to you all. Stay safe.

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

II Chronicles 7:14

ARNOLD VIEW CHURCH

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

Average Morning Worship attendance July was 62. We continue to have a strong online presence. We had 12 youth volunteers for the Impact Hometown youth event at Crab Orchard on July 18. One group cleaned flower beds at the Crab Orchard School, while the other group helped to clean out the Crab Orchard Library storage shed. Brother Tyler Penn shared with us on Conference Call on July 22 about his ministry with international students at the University of Illinois. James Klope, 87, passed away on July 23. Condolences to his family. Paul Gene Edwards, 62, passed away on July 29. Condolences to his family. Brother Clint Morgan shared with us about International Missions on 29.

"And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ." - Colossians 3:23-24


**HAPPY
GRANDPARENTS
DAY**
September 13

We celebrate two special days this month.
Thank God for families
and thank God for the
privilege to work.


**LABOR
DAY**
September 7

FIRST CHURCH – MOUNT VERNON

Pastor: David Shores Associate Pastor: **Craig Smith**

Our church had another faithful member go to be with the Lord this month. Donnie Shurtz who was our Church Secretary for about 18 years passed away on August 1st, she would have been 84 years old on August 13. She and her husband, J.D. were very active in our church and were known throughout southern Illinois.

Brother Craig and Sister Marcella Smith have two of their daughters now in new locations. Esther has moved to Knoxville, Tennessee and will continue her work with therapy horses and Lucille has enrolled at Murray State University to complete her degree in agriculture.

Our church is planning to expand our services to include Sunday evening services as soon as the present crisis begins to decrease. We have been meeting for Sunday School on Wednesday nights, but expect to soon be having Sunday morning classes.

¡Muchas gracias!

Last month I printed a letter from the Bridge Builders for the Cross stating the needs of the Cuban brothers and sisters. The response was overwhelming and we thank you for it. The donations given were more than needed for the first shipping container of rice, and hopefully we will be able to send in another shipment in the near future.

Thank you so much for your generous gifts!

- David Shores

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OR CURRENT RESIDENT

*Note to Reporters: The deadline for the October Newsletter is September 15.
Please send your articles to davids@myfreewillbaptist.org*

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS | NAFWB | JUNE 20-21, 2020

Sporting 30 six-foot tables with a single General Board member seated at each, the 84th session of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, July 20-21, painted a far different picture than the usual one of thousands of people crowded into a convention center or arena.

Yet, the COVID-19 pandemic that forced the cancelation of an in-person convention didn't prevent those thousands from coming together for online worship, business, training, and even fellowship from a distance.

You may read the complete coverage of the convention in the current issue of ONE Magazine or you may go online (www.nafwb.org) and download the business and worship sessions of the event, plus the music and the messages.

