



ILLINOIS FREE WILL BAPTIST

DECEMBER 2021

NEWSLETTER

A monthly publication for Illinois Free Will Baptist families

BLUE POINT CHURCH

Pastor: Ernie Lewis Reporter: Suzanne Lewis

Several from our church attended the fund-raising dinner for the Compassion Pregnancy Center in Fairfield. Kara Taylor served as our table host. The dinner raised about \$32,000 for the center. Brother Ernie and Suzanne attended a "Quilts of Valor" ceremony for Wayne County in which quilts were presented to veterans of the Korean War. Suzanne is an active member of this quilting organization.

The Annual Flora Halloween Parade was held on a Saturday evening with several from our church participating, either in a school band or on an organization's float. Many others from the church attended the parade.

Brother Ernie and Suzanne and Steve Paul traveled to Champaign on a recent Monday morning. They helped church planters Ed and Rachel Goode of the Bridge Church unload their

Pods which had arrived from Virginia

Our Junior High Sunday school class recently went on an outing where they used their offerings for a couple of special projects. They also enjoyed a meal out and a stop on the way home for ice cream.

Currently Brother Ernie is teaching a New Converts class to three young people who have recently given their hearts to the Lord.

Our 'Connect Group' for teens is meeting on Sunday evenings for games, snacks, and a Bible lesson.

Brother Ernie attended the Executive Board meeting held in Mt. Vernon.

Brother Ernie and Suzanne both attended a special breakfast held at the Bonnie Café (Mt. Vernon Airport). Ed and Rachel Goode were introduced to a group of about twenty who were able to attend. Brother Ed shared some plans about the church plant in Champaign.



Welcome **Ed and Rachel Goode**, lead pastors at the Bridge Church in Champaign. Serving alongside the Goodes are the Garretts, associate planters, and the Penns, missionaries to the University of Illinois. Ed was born in the United Kingdom, Rachel comes from North Carolina.

They spent five years in ministry at the First Free Will Baptist Church in Richmond, Virginia before moving to Illinois.

Please remember them in your prayers.



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



HAZEL DELL CHURCH

Pastor: Curtis Smith Reporter: Diana Kirk

Greetings from the folks at Hazel Dell. Changes are in progress with our church remodel project. Concrete has been poured for the new handicapped parking on the north side of the sanctuary, with a ramp to be added in the near future. New lighting has been installed. Painting in the sanctuary has begun and new carpet is to be installed in December. We hope to be back in the sanctuary for worship services before Christmas.

We participated in the city Trunk or Treat activity this year. Fun had to be moved to the Old Gym due to the possibility of inclement weather.

Our annual fall cookout and hayride was held on Sunday evening, October 31st. Thank you to all who made this a special event. Brother Mike Sample delivered the devotion.

Brother Curtis was presented with a "very special pizza" containing valuable "dough" for pastor appreciation. We truly love and appreciate Brother Curtis, Sister Emilee, Titus, Lydia and Abby and are so thankful they are serving the Lord by ministering to us.

"Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you."- 1 Peter 5:6-7

ARNOLD VIEW CHURCH

Pastor: Adam Brown Reporter: Buddy Parks

Greetings from Arnold View. Average Sunday School Attendance during October was 75. The WAC Meeting was held on October 13. We have received boxes for Operation Christmas Child. Danny Adams, 79, passed away on September 19. Helen Jenkins, 84, passed away on September 30. Bruce Finley, 70, passed away on October 15. Condolences to these families. Trunk or Treat was held on October 30. Our 5th Sunday Evening Song Service was a blessing. The first Sunday of every month is Bowtie Sunday. The Women's Auxiliary had a bake sale on November 7 and November 14.

"For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations." - Psalm 100:5

FIRST CHURCH – BENTON

Pastor: Phillip Kennedy

Happy Thanksgiving to all! The second half of October was spent preparing for the drive through trick or treat that we had at our church on October 30th. We just had one station, people would pull up to where we were and we handed them lots of candy. They didn't even get out of the car. We had lots of helpers show up to that. We also had lots of helpers to help pack the bags of candy.

We did have a few attend the quarterly meeting at J-City church. It was good to hear from Emily Petty again and to tour the new Hope Center.

Our first Sunday in November we had our Harvest Sunday! Many people sang special songs and gave testimonies. We also had some share poems and other readings including scripture. After the preaching we had a great meal. It was good to have so many visitors with us!

We have been praying for all the other churches in Illinois... especially those seeking a Pastor. May God bless!



You Are Invited

FAREWELL OPEN HOUSE

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FOR: Pastor John & Vicki Hollis

DATE: December 11, 2021

TIME: 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

WHERE: Crossroads FWB Church

Therefore my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

1 Corinthian 15:58

...Refreshments will be served...

PITTSBURG FWB CHURCH

Pastors: Eddie Donelson and Keith McDannel Reporter: Heather Phillips

“Livin’ All for the SON in 2021”

December is already here, November flew by and **2022** is just around the corner!! Here are some updates on the events that occurred since the November newsletter...

On Thursday night, November 4, we resumed our monthly Skate Night at Emery Brothers Skating Rink in Marion. We were so grateful to be able to come together (young and young at heart) and enjoy some good ole’ fashion skating again. Everyone enjoyed a wonderful time of fellowship both on and off the rink. Our next Skate Night will be held on Thursday, December 9. Everyone is invited to join us for an evening of roller-skating fun and admission is FREE!

Our monthly “HE KEEPS ME SINGING” was held Tuesday, November 9. This month’s theme was “Jesus, I Just Want To Thank You.” We joined together to celebrate our “thankfulness” for all that Jesus has done for us! We had a time for testimonies, lots of good music, a special devotion time and scriptures were shared. The next “HE KEEPS ME SINGING” will be on December 14, in the PFWBC Chapel, at 6:30pm. If you have not joined us yet for one of these meetings, we hope you will join us this month!

We are currently in the process of collecting shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. We will update next month on how many we were able to collect. This is such an awesome outreach and a wonderful way to get involved in International Missions. Since 1993, more than 188 million children in more than 170 countries have received an Operation Christmas Child shoebox. The project delivers not only the joy of what, for many kids, is their first gift ever, but also gives them a tangible expression of God’s love. “Every box is an opportunity to reach a child with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.” —Franklin Graham, President of Samaritan’s Purse. We pray everyone has a safe and healthy December, all while remembering the reason for this joyous time of the year...the birth of our Savior, Jesus!!

*“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel”
(which means ‘God with us’). - Matthew 1:23*

HARMONY CHURCH Reporter: Cody Alstat

Greetings from Harmony, On October 17th, we had a special service where Brother Mark King spoke for us with many specials. The Youth Christmas play is coming along. We had an all-day practice on October 17th. We’re planning on having our play on December 26th at 10:30 am; if you are in the neighborhood and want to come watch.

On October 24th, Brother Kent Dunford stepped in as a fill-in speaker for us during our time of finding a new preacher. We also held communion after our morning worship on October 24th. On October 30th we held our Fall Festival and there was a total of 43 people in attendance. November 1st our youth went to Emery Brothers for their monthly outing, there was a total of 10 skaters. On November 9th our master’s Men and Sisters of Strength met for their monthly meeting and had 15 people in attendance, our sisters of strength are making baskets for several members of our church.

“Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved – you and your household.” Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized. – Acts 16:30-32

OPEN HOUSE

Mount Vernon Free Will Baptist Church will be having an Open House for Sister Pat and Brother David Shores December 11 from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm.

They are retiring the first of the year after 65 years of ministry.

Plan now to attend. Cards would be appreciated, but no gifts please.

OR CURRENT RESIDENT



*The deadline for news articles for publication in the January issue of the Newsletter is December 15.
Please address all correspondence to davids@mvmfreewillbaptist.org*

RESCUE CHURCH

Pastor: Bryant Harris Reporter: Donna Harmon

Hello from Rescue! Where did summer go? Now we are watching fall which is now upon us. We watch all the beautiful leaves that God allows us to have. He is so great! In September, we ordained a Deacon: Brother Nathan Beaty, a very dedicated brother. Pray for him and all his decisions and dedication, he will love your prayers.

Brother Barry Simpson was our guest speaker on September 19th. We are now working on the addition to our new building, and Ms Melinda has Tuesday School back in session each week.

Happy Thanksgiving to all of you from Rescue...and a Merry Christmas as well. Let's hope that our families can be together this year. Be very careful: Covid is still out there!

Our condolences to the family of Bonnie Miller, my special sister-in-law. She is the sister of Tom and Ted Harmon. She took her journey on October 27th.

This year, Brother Bryant had an outdoor service on October 31st. Following the service we had a hot dog roast. The evening was well attended. Brother Bryant brought a message that began with how pretty the leaves were and the joy they give us. In so many ways he said they were like the ones we love and have to give up and we are left with special memories. I wish I could write this better because I know everyone felt the message.

"What an Awesome God we serve!"

NOTE: District Clerks and Board Secretaries, Please send the dates and places for your meetings in 2022. We will try to get a complete State Calendar in the January Newsletter.