



ILLINOIS FREE WILL BAPTIST

SEPTEMBER 2021

# NEWSLETTER

A monthly publication for Illinois Free Will Baptist families

## FREE WILL BAPTIST CAMP MEETING

CAMP HOPE - EWING, ILLINOIS

SEPTEMBER 12 – 15

**Services each evening  
at 6:00 pm**

(to help younger  
couples with children  
in school)

**CHILDREN'S  
CHURCH**  
Mt. Vernon Church  
(Ages 3 – 10)  
Sunday Evening  
Only



**Churches providing  
the music  
each evening:**

Hazel Dell Church  
Sunday

Calvary Church  
Monday

Ina Church  
Tuesday

Hazel Dell Church  
Wednesday

**SPEAKER: DR. EDWARD MOODY**

**Executive Secretary, National Association of Free Will Baptists**

Dr. Moody oversees the operation of the National Offices Building and promotes the entire denominational family along with all agencies and programs. He serves as denominational liaison with government agencies, is editor-in-chief of *ONE Magazine*, arranges for the annual national convention and leadership conference, and champions stewardship through The Together Way Plan and other methods of proportionate giving.

Before assuming the role of Executive Secretary, Brother Moody served as pastor of Tippetts Chapel FWB Church in Clayton, North Carolina since 2000. He was also professor of Counselor Education and Associate Dean of the School of Education at North Carolina Central University where he served since 1995

Our Camp Meeting is a wonderful place to gather to hear God's Word, rejoice with great music and fellowship with friends and loved ones. Please pray for a great revival this year!

## 2022 NOMINEES REQUESTED

The 2021-2022 Nominating Committee, which will serve through the national convention in Birmingham, Alabama, is prepared to receive nominees for the 2022 election, according to Johnny Miller (AR), committee chairman.

The committee will consider nominations and compile a report offering a single nomination for each position to be filled. The report will be presented to delegates at the 2022 convention.

The following board and commission positions will be filled in 2022: Welch College (3); IM, Inc (3); Randall House Publications (3); Women Nationally Active for Christ (3); Commission for Theological Integrity (1); Historical Commission (1); Music Commission (1); Media Commission (1); General Board (12); and Executive Committee (3).

The following boards do not elect members in 2022: Board of Retirement, North American Ministries, and Free Will Baptist Foundation.

Nominations, including a fully completed [NAFWB Nomination Form](#) and accompanying brief resume, must be submitted exclusively to the chairman on or before October 1. This information is also available at <https://nafwb.org/nominations>.

Contact Chairman Johnny Miller: [Johnny@cavanaughchurch.com](mailto:Johnny@cavanaughchurch.com) or 479-462-1630

Nominating Committee 2825 Grinnell Ave Fort Smith AR 72908

## ILLINOIS 2021 NATIONAL CTS WINNERS

It takes a lot of time and hard work to prepare for CTS. We are proud of every single CTS competitor that competed in our State CTS competition and all those that went on to compete on behalf of Illinois at the Vertical 3 Conference. They are all winners with Jesus and our churches are stronger also.

**Listed below are those young people who place first place at the Vertical 3 Conference.**

### BIBLE:

Oakley Hiller-Bible Memorization

### DRAMA

Joshua Lewis – Christian Literature

Jenkins Duo – Dramatic Duo

### ART

Ava Hollis – Painting

### MUSIC:

Ina Boys – Quartet

Ina – A Ensemble

Ina - Impact Ensemble

### PUPPETS

Lift Him Up – Puppets A

Lift Him Up – Puppets B

Lift Him Up – Puppets C

### WRITING

Rachel Maas - Short Article

Layla Newberry –Photo Essay

Congratulations to these first place winners!

Illinois also had 21 second place and third place winners. Our congratulations to all of them.

There is a new CTS book for the upcoming year with all the new changes listed in the front of the book.

It is important to carefully read whichever area your students are interested in.

## FIRST CHURCH - BENTON

**Pastor: Phillip Kennedy**

Blessings to you and your churches! We have had a wonderful summer. We had our 50th Homecoming on June 13th. We had 2 from our church go to Youth Camp. Pastor Phillip Kennedy volunteered as a counselor and preached during 5th and 6th grade week.

We also had a great Fathers Day Sunday!

Our 4th of July service went well! We are a blessed Nation!

We are thankful to have had the Gibbons to join our church in July.

Larry Clyatt preached at our church on July 18 while Pastor Phillip and his family went to the Free Will Baptist National Convention. Mike Thomas filled in for the Wednesday night of National convention. The National Convention was a blessing and very encouraging! The last Sunday in July we observed communion which is always a blessing!

On August 8th we had Emily Petty come and share with our church about what God is doing in Japan and her calling to the mission field!

On Wednesday nights we've been going over the Ten Commandments, one commandment at a time. May we all continue to Pray that our churches will be successful in reaching the lost in the communities that God has placed us!

## **RESCUE CHURCH**

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

Hello from Rescue! Everything was going good at our new church until the scare of the new Covid virus began and last minute vacations before school starts caused our attendance to go down. Like always, the churches will start working to restore the attendance.

Vacation Bible School and our "Back to School" efforts were joined together. There were 39 kids who enjoyed study time, games, eating and fellowship. Ms Melinda and our Tuesday School had t-shirts with their logo on them. Extra fun was provided by Ms April by throwing the shirts to whoever could catch them. Trevor Beaty brought his friend Matthew and they collided while catching a shirt and Matthew suffered a broken finger.

Brother Bryant had another special event planned but it was canceled due to Covid. He is working on a new date.

Jim Hale has some health issues and is in the hospital, so please pray for him.

Our condolences to Laura Suarez. Her sister, Starr Ann Alexander passed away in July.

There are many things in life that change, so we have to keep our minds moving, praying and thinking about our purpose in life. *"What an awesome God we serve!"*

## **BLUE POINT CHURCH**

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

Brother Ernie and Suzanne attended the National Convention of Free Will Baptists in Memphis, Tennessee. Brother Ernie served as Assistant Clerk in the business sessions while Suzanne judged several areas of competition for Vertical III. They enjoyed the Welch College luncheon and the Jonny W concert and were blessed in the evening services.

Brother Ernie was also able to attend a recent pastor's breakfast at the Bonnie Café at the Mt. Vernon Airport.

Two baby showers were held in the Link recently. The first was for Caleb and Cassie Waller who are expecting a girl. The second was for Chloe (Byars) and Cam Gibson who are expecting a boy in September. Congratulations to Marissa (Byars) and Mitchell Levi who recently had their first child, Lydia Faye.

We recently took part in Johnsonville Days where our own Daryl and Mary Kay Hargrave served as parade marshalls. Some of our folks were in the 5k run and walk, tractor and truck pull, the mud bog, worked in the kitchen or walked in the parade. Many of us also attended the fried chicken dinner on Sunday afternoon. We also took part in the Cisne Reunion. We operated our 'Taco-in-a-Bag' stand every evening in the park. We enjoyed the gospel singing with Jeff and Sheri Easter on Wednesday night. On Saturday morning we coordinated and ran the kids games. Several of our girls were in the pageants. We were in the parade on Saturday afternoon giving out free fans.

We offer our sympathy to the family of Loren Conard. He is survived by his widow, Kay, and several other family members in our church.

On our Back-to-School Sunday we recognized all students and staff. We had a special prayer of blessing over them and their new school year. Each of the students was presented with a two-dollar as they were reminded of their work in God's eyes. That same day the Annual Bozarth Memorial scholarship in memory of Bob and Doris Bozarth was presented to Lauren Grace Conard. Lauren Grace is beginning her college career at SIU Edwardsville this fall.

## **FIRST CHURCH - DECATUR**

**Pastor Stephen Cantrell Reporter Cathie DeCicco**

The Decatur First Free Will Baptist Church had a big loss in July. Brother Mike Stephenson went to be with our Lord and Savior in heaven. Michael "Mike" "Mikey" Ray Stephenson was born on December 5, 1950 and went to be with Jesus on July 18, 2021 at 9:50 pm after a hard battle with cancer. Mike was a huge part of our church for so many years. He was a faithful member, where he served as a board member, Sunday School Superintendent, CTS director and Youth Group Leader. Mike's love for God and his church were evident as he drove so many kids in Decatur to church on the van. While he served many children food, his goal was to make sure people were fed physically but also spiritually. If you ever came to our church you no doubt saw him helping out wherever he could. He was a friend to everyone he met and we know that there were plenty of people waiting in heaven to give him a hug.

Please pray for our church as we all miss him greatly and especially pray for Donna. He and Donna were married for 47 years and he treated her like a queen. He even called to remind her to check her blood sugar while he was in the ICU. He never stopped trying to make everyone's life easier even at his sickest. I thank the Lord for giving us Mike and the opportunity to serve with him at the church. We take solace in the fact that we will see him again.

## PITTSBURG CHURCH

**Pastors: Eddie Donelson and Keith McDannel Reporter: Heather Phillips**

“Livin’ All for the SON in 2021”

*“It is the LORD your God you must follow, and him you must revere.*

*Keep his commands and obey him; serve him and hold fast to him.” - Deuteronomy 13:4*

Wow! August is gone and it is so hard to believe that summer break is over and school is already back in session.

Our monthly “HE KEEPS ME SINGING” was held on its usual second Tuesday of the month in August. This month we had a special treat as some of our church kids performed a special song. There was special testimony given and the devotion was given by a special young man that has been called into the ministry. We all enjoyed lots of good hymns and gospel songs that were shared by the worship team. The next “HE KEEPS ME SINGING” will be on September 14, in the PFWBC Chapel at 6:30pm. Everyone is always welcome and we know you don’t want to miss this special service.

Vacation Bible School was a HUGE success! On average 200 kids participated in this year's Vacation Bible School, ROAR! *Where Life Is Wild and God Is Good.* At Roar VBS, kids explored God’s goodness and celebrated a ferocious faith that can power them through this wild life. It was a fast-paced week and everyone, including the workers, had an amazing time!

We hosted our annual Back 2 School Bash last month. We enjoy this community outreach so much! We had over 100 kids walk through the doors of God’s house! The kids enjoyed a bible story, free haircuts, games, prizes, snacks, dental exams, and FREE school supplies!

The 2019-2020 AWANA season begins September 4. AWANA is open to anyone ages 2-High School. Each Wednesday evening from 6:30-8:00pm the kids work on scripture memorization as well as play games and hear a lesson taught by volunteers within our church. If you or someone you know is looking for a great program to be a part of, tell them about AWANA at PFWBC! We will also have adult classes available as well. *“Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me... your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish.” Matthew 18:5*

We are praying for our schools, students, and teachers-- for their safety, purpose, focus, and more!

## WALTONVILLE CHURCH

**Pastor: Mark Wells Reporter: Chris Kuhner**

We have had a great month here in Waltonville! We started a food pantry and there were three families that we were able to help. We are looking at giving out food each month, the Lord willing. We had a one day VBS and had 12 kids. There was a carnival for the kids to get all kinds of goodies to take home afterwards. I think that we all had a blast.

We were able to have sister Emily Petty come and share her desires of being a missionary to Japan. We pray for her as she gets her backing to be able to go. We had a backpack and school supply give away and we were able to serve 22 kids for that. Our church led a prayer walk around the Waltonville School. We had five different churches represented. Please keep our kids and our schools in your prayers this year! God is good!

## ARNOLD VIEW CHURCH

**Pastor: Adam Brown Reporter: Buddy Parks**

Average Sunday School attendance during July was 79. Alan, Lisa, and Sarah Thomas shared about E-Team Chicago on July 4. Pastor Adam Brown has been bringing a series of messages on The Ten Commandments. Robby Clark-Stokes is now our Song Leader. Thanks to Jason Dwyer for his several years of service as Song Leader.

The Women Active For Christ Meeting was held on July 14. A group from our church traveled to the Memphis area on July 17 as part of the "Impact Memphis" outreach. Our prayers are with the Faith FWB Church and the community of Somerville, TN. Four from our church attended the National Convention at Memphis.

River Doss and Mila Orrill were baptized on July 25. Emma Damron was baptized on August 1. VBS was held on August 2-5. Carl Eugene Stephens, 87, passed away on August 5. Condolences to the family. Arnold View's Homecoming Service is scheduled for September 12. Dr. Eddie Moody will be our guest speaker.

"Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, who only doeth wondrous things." - Psalm 72:18

**CELEBRATE YOUR ABILITY TO WORK! HAPPY LABOR DAY!**



## HARMONY CHURCH

**Pastor: Bruce Thurman Reporter: Cody Alstat**

Greetings from Harmony, We held our Vacation Bible School on July 12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>. Throughout the entire week of VBS we learned different things each night. On Monday night we had a total of 83 people with 46 of them being kids. We learned that Jesus' power helps us do hard things in life. On Tuesday night we had a total of 84 people with 51 of them being kids. We learned that Jesus' power gives us hope. On Wednesday night we had a total of 82 people with 49 of them being kids. We learned that Jesus' power helps us be bold! On Thursday night we had a total of 98 people with 61 of them being kids. We learned that Jesus' power lets us live forever! On our last night of VBS we had a total of 114 people with 48 of them being kids. We learned that Jesus' power lets us be good friends! We had an awesome time at Rocky Railway VBS and we hope if you missed out you can join us for our Youth Christmas play! Our kids are going to participate in The Christmas Express Finding Joy in the Journey, be in prayer for our kids as we start to practice for the upcoming Christmas play.

## FIRST CHURCH – MOUNT VERNON

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

It has been a couple of months since our church reported to the Newsletter. We had our annual Homecoming June 13 with the Peyton Sisters providing the music and the pastor's grandson, Trevor Johnston preaching. It was a wonderful day and the church was encouraged. We sent one child to camp this year and some workers spent the day in the kitchen on June 24. Ladies of the church provided desserts for the campers on that day.

Brother David and Brother Craig both preached on Sunday morning, July 4<sup>th</sup> for our "God and Country" service. It was interesting how God lead both of them in their messages which blended together as a challenge to serve God and respect our nation. The next Saturday, our church hosted the East Central District Meeting and we were blessed to have 6 missionaries plus some of the IM staff members present the "Go Global" missions program.

Brother David and Pat attended the National Convention in Memphis, Tennessee.

Please pray for Brother Craig's father, Donald Smith. He has been hospitalized with Covid for more than a month and was recently transferred to a hospital in Evansville, Indiana.

*"He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty" – Psalm 91:1*

### MASTER'S MEN RETREAT

at

#### CAMP HOPE

September 16 – 17 – 18

**Speaker: Eric Martin of Oklahoma**

an active member of the Bridge Builders



This retreat gives time for quiet meditation, worship services, Communion Service, wonderful meals, plus fellowship and competitive events such as horse shoe pitching, fishing, skeet shooting and archery.

The retreat will close with a pie auction to raise money for the Bridge Builders mission projects. This retreat is a cost free program sponsored by the Illinois Master's Men Board.

### ILLINOIS WNAC

*"For Such a Time as This"*

#### Illinois Ladies Fellowship Retreat

Camp Hope

September 24-25



**Speaker:**

**Dianna Bryant**

Food: Karen Federle

Come, Worship and Fellowship Together

*Friday begins with Dinner at 6:00pm Saturday morning 9:00 in the Dining Hall*

Retreat fees:

\$25.00 for Friday and Saturday  
\$35.00 includes an overnight stay at Camp Hope

Illinois Free Will Baptist September 2021

# NEWSLETTER

Illinois State Association of Free Will Baptists  
P.O. Box 1 Bonnie, Illinois 62816-0001

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Bonnie, Illinois  
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OR CURRENT RESIDENT

*The deadline for news articles for publication in the October issue of the Newsletter is September 15.  
Please address all correspondence to [davids@myfreewillbaptist.org](mailto:davids@myfreewillbaptist.org)*

SEPTEMBER IS THE MONTH FOR THE

## *Rest of the Family Offering*

AN OFFERING TO SUPPORT OTHER VITAL  
FREE WILL BAPTIST MINISTRIES

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

LEARN MORE: [nafwb.org/TOETHERWAY](http://nafwb.org/TOETHERWAY)