



ILLINOIS FREE WILL BAPTIST

MARCH 2021

NEWSLETTER

A monthly publication for Illinois Free Will Baptist families

PROGRAM for the ILLINOIS STATE ASSOCIATION – MARCH 18 and 19, 2021

Theme: “What Is Your I.D.?” – John 3:30

Hazel Dell Free Will Baptist Church 14689 North Rend City Road Sesser, Illinois 62883

THURSDAY EVENING – 6:00 pm

Call to Order – Clerk
Opening Remarks: Moderator Brother Curtis Smith
Recognition of Standing Delegates:
 Ordained Ministers and Deacons
 Members of State Boards
Appointment of Business Committee
Adoption of 2021 Together Way Allocations
State Treasurer’s Report: Brother Mike Johnston
Auditing Committee Report
Executive Board Report
Partial Report of Nominating Committee

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BOARD SEMINAR

Speaker: Brother Daniel Edwards

Pastor: Faith FWB Church, Chandler, Indiana
His Presentation, “Welcome to the Wilderness”
will address issues the church must now deal
with as related to COVID-19

Reconvene for Business

Closing Prayer

FRIDAY MORNING- 9:00 am

Moderator’s Remarks
Board Reports:
 Promotional Secretary’s Report: Brother David Shores
 Illinois Board of Missions Report: Brother Ernie Lewis
 CTS Board Report-Brother: Tommy Lewis

RECESS

FRIDAY MORNING SERVICE:

Presiding: Brother Tyler Penn
Speaker: Brother Larry Cook

LUNCH

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SERVICE – 1:30 pm

Speaker: Brother David Shores

Board Reports:

 Women Active for Christ Report: Sister Amy Johnson
 Master’s Men Report: Brother Mike Thomas
 Christian Education Board Report: Brother Keith Fletcher
 Camp Board Report: Brother Bryant Harris
Final Report of Business Committee
 Constitutional Items to Consider
Election of Delegates to National Convention
 July 18-21 at Memphis, Tennessee
Final Report of the Nominating Committee
Final Committees Chosen
Registration Report

Recess: Banquet to follow Moderator’s Message

FRIDAY EVENING – 7:00 pm

Obituary Report: Brother Jason Janus
Announcements and Adjourn Business

FRIDAY EVENING SERVICE

Presiding: Brother Curtis Smith
Speaker: Brother John Hollis
Closing Prayer

Note: Due to the restrictions still in place in Illinois for Covid-19 protection and no National Boards will be represented, it is requested attendance for this State Meeting be limited to delegates, board members, ministers and deacons. Thank you for understanding.

HAZEL DELL CHURCH

Pastor: Curtis Smith Reporter: Diana Kirk

Happy wintry February weather! The snow is beautiful even if it is cold outside. There were 23 who attended the Laser Tag evening of fun recently in Mt. Vernon. A good time of fellowship was enjoyed by all.

We had a recent baptism at Hazel Dell. So thankful and blessed with Brother Justin Miller's decision to follow his Lord in baptism. The service was held on Sunday, January 31st.

On Sunday morning, February 7th Brother Curtis shared his vision for "Now What Do We Do in 2021?" Many great ideas were presented and each of us must meet the challenge of doing our part to help achieve these goals.

We held our Valentine's Banquet on Sunday, evening, February 14th. It was a success with 39 people in attendance. There was a catered meal, a devotion by Brother Curtis, adult games and children's games. It was so good to be back to fellowshiping with fellow Christians. Thank you to Brother Curtis, Sister Emilee, Sister Patricia Smith, and Sister Jennifer LeVault for organizing this special time. We look forward to more times of fellowship!

"This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you." John 15:12

BLUE POINT CHURCH

Pastor: Ernie Lewis Reporter: Suzanne Lewis

Our church recently sent two large boxes to Shane and Joy Davison in France. These boxes were filled with many of their favorite items. Church people donated items from a wish list and we gathered them at the church.

Brother Ernie enjoyed a pastor's breakfast held at the Calvary Church in Salem. Brother Harlen Johnson not only hosted the breakfast, but he cooked the food. Each pastor was given a book for himself and a gift bag to take home to his wife. Brother Ernie was also able to attend a pastor's breakfast in Wayne City. Area ministers from various churches were in attendance.

One of our young men, Preston Roberts, has enlisted in the military. On his last Sunday at church before leaving for basic training, we had a special word of prayer for him.

The 7th and 8th Grade Sunday school class recently completed another service project. After enjoying lunch at a local Mexican restaurant, they headed to Wal-Mart to purchase numerous items for the Davison mailing. Afterwards they went to the church where they sorted all the contributed items. Then they put many things in zip-loc bags, bubble wrapped other items, and then boxed everything for mailing.

On the snowy Valentine's Day, we were able to have our morning service despite the snow-covered road and parking lot. However, we did cancel the evening service due to the impending storm.

The Integrity Elite volleyball club is holding practices and games in our gym due to the limited use of school facilities during Co-Vid. They have several teams from around the area coming each week. The PeeWee basketball teams from our area schools are also holding practices there on Saturday afternoons. The second, third, and fourth grade boys are enjoying this activity and their parents are so thankful for the opportunity for their children

ARNOLD VIEW CHURCH

Pastor: Adam Brown Reporter: Buddy Parks

Average Morning Worship attendance during January was 80. Brother Adam Brown brought his first message as our Pastor on January 17. Brother Adam's Ordination Service was held at Arnold View on January 24. We have resumed in person services on Wednesday Evenings and Sunday School. Children's Church and Junior Church have also resumed. Pastor Adam Brown has been leading our Wednesday Evening Bible Study from Shane Pruitt's book, "9 Common Lies Christians Believe." Brother Adam incorporated a Verse of the Week into our Bulletin.

"There is therefore no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" – Romans 8:1a

FIRST CHURCH – BENTON

Pastor: Phillip Kennedy Reporter: Barbara Spencer

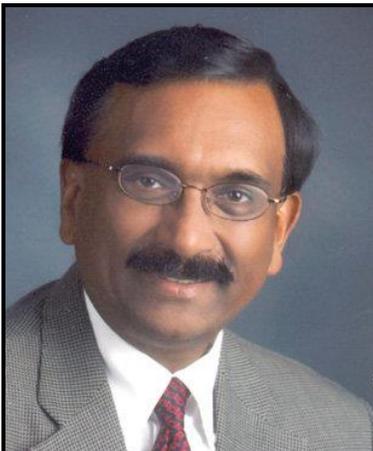
Although the members have to wear masks and have temperature taken, and the pews are sectioned off, we have Church every Sunday and most Wednesdays. The deacons' wives did a beautiful job of decorating the church for Christmas. The red poinsettias and greenery stood out beautifully. Even with all the precautions taken, many in the church had Covid. Don Zimmerman and myself spent Christmas in hospitals with pneumonia. Thankfully most others weren't as unlucky. Mary Bauer and Marci MacDonald made fabric face masks for the church. The South Central Quarterly met at the church on January 24. The attendance was pretty good considering the restrictions. We were saddened at the death of Barbara Combs, wife of Harold Combs, long time member of the church. Please pray for the Combs family. Another who with his family had been members was Eddie Helton.

On a happier note, before Christmas Gary and Delores Simpson became grandparents of Lily, whose mother has been in church several times while grandmother baby sit. Ray and Marci MacDonald became grandparents again on New Year Eve of Dean. Keep praying for our country and the help it needs now. Pray constantly about Covid - 19 and the new variations. Covid can't be escaped no matter how hard you try - I found that out as I never went anywhere without the mask. However my prayer was answered the first night - "I'm watching over the sparrows and I'm watching over you". (not the verse, just the way i got the answer)

We are not having Sunday school or evening worship. We are doing Children's church. Like many of you we have begun to livestream our Sunday morning service on Facebook. In place of Sunday nights our Pastor been putting out a short video message. For Wednesday evening Bible study we have been using some of the N.A.F.W.B. materials for our lessons. Let's continue to lift each other up in Prayer.

Meet Our Pastors

It is my hope we can profile every Free Will Baptist Pastor in Illinois so that all churches may be acquainted with those who serve across the state. This month we are focusing on the southern most church in Illinois. The Alexander Church is a very few miles from Missouri and Kentucky. Their pastor is Brother Sam Ramdial.



PASTOR SAM RAMDIAL

Brother Sam Ramdial is pastor at Alexander Church located in rural Thebes, Illinois where he has served since 2017. He and his wife, Sharon, have a daughter and a son, and eight grandchildren.

Brother Sam came to our association from the General Baptist Association. While serving with General Baptists and he and his wife served as missionaries in Jamaica from 1974 to 1978, pastored churches in Florida and Missouri plus he served in various executive positions and retired in 2015 from the position of Deputy Director of General Baptist International Missions.

In addition to his pastoral duties at Alexander Church, Brother Ramdial keeps busy serving as Assistant Chaplin at Southeast Hospital in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. Sam has a bachelor and a doctoral degree from Oakland City University and a Master's Degree from Wheaton College.

NOTE: This month marks one year of restrictions and rules because of Covid-19. Because of cancellations and date changes for scheduled activities in the coming months please check our state website: www.ilfwb.org which has a link to all our state boards. You may also register for various activities online.

NEWSLETTER

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

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OR CURRENT RESIDENT

*The deadline for news articles for publication in the April issue of the Newsletter is March 15.
Please address all correspondence to davids@myfreewillbaptist.org*

CAMP BOARD SETS TENTATIVE DATES FOR YOUTH CAMP 2021

Leadership Camp: June 2-4

Junior/Senior Camp: June 6-11

Freshmen/Sophomore Camp : June 13-18

Junior Camp: June 20-25

Primary Camp: June 27-July 1

Junior High Camp: July 4-9

Several improvement projects at Camp Hope have been completed this past year

Installed a new Air Conditioning Unit in the kitchen

Built a new Water Slide in the back field with a high launch pad

Continued work to renovate the Gymnasium including plumbing, inside finishing and electrical

CTS BOARD REPORT

We have been monitoring the Covid-19 restrictions and are planning to be ready for a socially distanced competition based on the number of participants. The normal letters for registration have been mailed and we will see what our numbers are and let the churches know the final plan in plenty of time to make arrangements.