

ILLINOIS FREE WILL BAPTIST

MAY 2021

NEWSLETTER

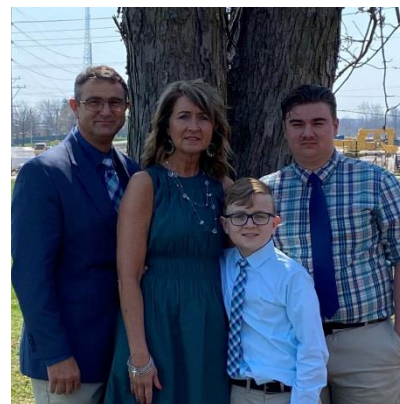
A monthly publication for Illinois Free Will Baptist families

FIRST CHURCH - DECATUR

Pastor: Stephen Cantrell

Our church is recovering from the issues of COVID. We had to close for a few months, and a few times after because of issues related to Covid, but God has been good. We are doing well, and praying that we continue to stay well. Our Wednesday Night was the most affected part. We ran two van routes and picked up several kids, but Covid hindered that. Now we are getting started back with fewer kids. Prayerfully we hope to get back to normal for our Wednesday night youth.

Last year I completed an almost five year study through the Book of Romans. It was so good actually preaching through the whole book. We have been in the Book of Revelations since before Christmas and have a few months to go in completing. Outside the preaching of the Word I feel discipleship is the most valuable thing we do as a church, in the past we have had several discipleship groups. Looking forward to getting those started back soon.



**PASTOR STEPHEN CANTRELL
and Family:
Candi, Piper and Josiah**

BLUE POINT CHURCH

Pastor: Ernie Lewis Reporter: Suzanne Lewis

Brother Ernie and Suzanne thoroughly enjoyed attending the Illinois State Association held at the Hazel Dell Church. They also represented the Mission Board at the visitation and funeral for Joyce Portell. While on vacation in Georgia, they were able to attend the services at Awaken Church, the church plant where Josh and Ashley Bennett currently serve. Larry Cook filled the pulpit at Blue Point for both the morning and evening services in Brother Ernie's absence.

We recently enjoyed our first birthday and anniversary fellowship since Co-Vid struck in early 2020. A large crowd gathered to enjoy this time together. One of our young men, Duke Tannahill, was saved during his Sunday school class. Brother Ernie was on a "Better Together" podcast hosted by Dr. Eddie Moody on "Pastoring Like I've Never Done Before".

Recently the Link has been used for PeeWee basketball, Club Volleyball, and Cisne High School S.A.T. testing. Our Easter services began with a delicious breakfast prepared by the men of the church. Everyone sat at tables that were beautifully decorated for the occasion. Our guest speaker for the Resurrection Service was Ryan Lewis of Mt. Juliet, Tennessee. A photo backdrop that had been set up for Easter was used by many family groupings. A rock garden helped decorate the sanctuary and there was a large wooden cross set up on the front porch. We had a great crowd for the Easter morning service. Afterwards, Bill and Christal Lewis, Junior Church directors, hosted an Easter egg hunt for all the children present that day.

We welcomed two new babies into our fellowship during this past month. Michael and Dalton Doody had a lovely daughter named Madden Joy born on Tuesday, March 30th. Josh and Julie Hutchcraft welcomed a beautiful girl named Kenley Jane on Tuesday, April 13th. We have three other ladies who are expecting in the near future.

FORMER ILLINOIS PASTOR WITH THE LORD

BROTHER HAROLD "BURT" HALL, 83, of Charleston, WV died Thursday March 18, 2021 at the home of his daughter, Kathy Halliburton, in Pleasant View, Tennessee, after a long illness.

He was raised in the community of Loudendale, WV, and was a 1955 graduate of Charleston High School. After graduation Brother Hall served in the US Navy, then went on to study at Welch College (FWBBC) in Gallatin, Tennessee. He was ordained as a Free Will Baptist Minister and served for 56 years in various churches throughout the eastern United States including the Arnold View Church near Creal Springs, Illinois. Brother Hall retired from the pastorate in January of 2019.



RESCUE CHURCH

Pastor: Bryant Harris Reporter: Donna Harmon

Hello from Rescue Church! Our Easter Services were well attended and were a big blessing.

Children's Tuesday School will soon be having Graduation. Ms Melinda will be taking charge of this very soon.

This year there will be four graduating from High School: Samuel Harris, Dillon Poe, Gracie Walker and Avery Walker. We wish all of them the very best in life.

I experienced the loss of my best friend, buddy and husband, father of our two children, Teddy Harmon. The love we shared for 65 years, all my happiness, has now turned to pain, but this too shall pass with God's care. Teddy loved his family so much and whatever pain he endured on earth is now gone. He loved his Savior and Rescue Church and served them both to the best of his ability as Sunday School teacher and Choir Director.

"What an awesome God we serve!"

WALTONVILLE CHURCH

Pastor: Mark Wells Reporter: Chris Kuhner

We thank the lord for all of his blessings on us here at the Waltonville Free Will Baptist Church. The ladies had a bake sale back on the 20th of March and they made over \$600 dollars and sold out before lunch. Met a family and invited them and they started coming the next Sunday. We met a young man and his wife also at the bake sale. He pastors South h Hickory Hill Christian Church and also is a (FCA) (Fellowship of Christian Athletes) representative. He wants to start FCA group in the Waltonville Jr. and Sr. High School. I don't know how God will use us through this endeavor, so please keep us in your prayers about this. David and Michelle Miller moved into a new home. There was a good turnout to help them move and had a great time in the Lord's will! The young lady that started coming had some setbacks in her life and we haven't seen her for a few weeks now. Please pray for her as she goes through life's trials

FIRST CHURCH – BENTON

Pastor: Phillip Kennedy

He is Risen indeed! I hope you all had a wonderful Resurrection Sunday! We had a wonderful day worshipping the Lord! We all turned in our "30 pieces of silver" on Easter Sunday. On Palm Sunday we had communion together. We have enjoyed having people return who have been out for a while and seeing new faces! We started Sunday School back up on Easter Sunday! We are now actively raising money for the W.M.O. by collecting money in our coin banks and emphasizing Missions!

We have been busy making plans for our 50th Homecoming service on June 13. Our Founding Pastor Gene Norris will be the guest speaker and the Wanda Mountain Boys will be singing. Seek every opportunity to share Christ!

REMEMBER: PRAY FOR CHURCHES WHICH HAVE NO PASTOR.

ARNOLD VIEW CHURCH

Pastor: Adam Brown Reporter: Buddy Parks

Greetings from Arnold View! Average Morning Worship attendance during February was 82. Services were canceled on February 10 and 14 due to inclement weather. Thanks to everyone who helped clean up the mess created by the broken water line. Average Sunday School attendance during March was 76. Steve Tanner, 62, passed away on March 6. Carol Parton, 81, passed away on March 11. Brother Burt Hall, 83, passed away on March 18. Brother Burt Hall was Pastor at Arnold View 1988-1997. Steve Mandrell, 62, passed away on April 9. Condolences to these families. We had a baptism service on March 14. Eli Damron, Leah and Brooke Loyd, Dylon Burford, Elijah Doss and Camden Doss were baptized that morning. Josh and Becky Orrill also joined our church that day. Brother Ivan Ryan brought the Morning Worship Message on March 20. We elected Jason Dwyer and Josh Orrill as Deacons on March 28. Our Annual Business Meeting was held that evening. Our Easter Egg Hunt was held on April 3. Pastor Adam Brown brought the Easter Sunrise Message and the Easter Morning Worship Message.

"Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him"
Romans 6:9

HARMONY CHURCH

Pastor: Bruce Thurman Reporter: Cody Alstat

Hello from Harmony, we had our first Birthday and Anniversary meal after evening worship on March 28th, we want to thank everyone that made something and came out for the fellowship after service. On April 3rd we had our annual Easter Egg hunt, we had a total of 29 kids show up and several adults came. Thank you to all that helped and make it another successful year. Our Easter morning worship we had a total of 80 people in attendance and there were several kids, we were happy to see some people that had not been there in a while. Our youth group went skating on April 5 we had a total of 19 kids that came out to skate. Be in prayer for our upcoming Homecoming Services where we will be celebrating 189 years of Ministry.

*"What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee. In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust;
I will not fear what flesh can do unto me." Psalm 56:3-4*

FIRST CHURCH – MOUNT VERNON

Pastor: David Shores Associate Pastor: Craig Smith

We had a great Easter meeting at our church with special music by four different singers, our newly formed praise team and a sermon from both pastors during the same service. Members of our congregation are beginning to return to the in person services as we have maintained Sunday School, Sunday morning and evening, and midweek Prayer and Bible Study on Wednesday. We concluded a study of Revelation in April and will begin another series this month.

The WNAC has been receiving offerings for the WMO and two other missionaries. They will also be in charge of some of the events scheduled for Mother's Day and Father's Day. The church will be celebrating its 91st Homecoming on June 13th. You are invited to attend.

7th ANNUAL MASTER'S MEN YOUTH FISHING TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY, MAY 1st

**Held at Camp Hope – Ewing, Illinois
Tournament starts at 9:00am**

YOUTH: AGES 13 and UNDER

Bring your own tackle (Some tackle will be available)

Prizes for 1st, 2nd and Guppy Award

Teams of 2 youth and 1 adult for assistance

First Prize: Two Scholarships for Camp Hope Summer Camp

Contact Nathan Beaty @ 618-927-5978 for more information



NEWSLETTER

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

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OR CURRENT RESIDENT



REMEMBER OUR HEROS ON MEMORIAL DAY

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

ILFWB LADIES MINISTRY

Ladies Fellowship

Join us at Crossroads Church in Effingham
for a day of encouragement and worship together!

Lunch
and
Laughter



Break Out
Sessions
and
Trivia Fun

JUDY TURNBOUGH BAILEY

FAITHFULNESS

Emily Petty Mark King Sarah Malone

SATURDAY, MAY 1st 10:00am – 2:00pm

Bring items or gift cards for the missionary provision closet

Celebrating 40 Years

*"Sharing the Message of the Cross at the
Crossroads of America"*

Please join us at

Crossroads Free Will Baptist Church

Sunday, May 16th, 2021

9:30 Sunday School / 10:15 Worship Service

Guest Speaker

Johnny Hollis

Special Music

The Wanda Mountain Boys

Lunch will be served.