



ILLINOIS FREE WILL BAPTIST

JUNE 2022

# NEWSLETTER

A monthly publication for Illinois Free Will Baptist families



## BAKERVILLE CHURCH

**Pastor: Robert Craig Reporter: Debi Morgan**

Please join with us in welcoming our new pastor, Brother Robert Craig and his wife, JoAnn. They moved from Alabama, although they are originally from southern Illinois.

If you don't have a church family, come and join us. You will be blessed!

## CAMPERS:

**Summer is here!**

The schedule for our Summer Youth Camps at **CAMP HOPE** is listed

on

**Page 5.**



## ILLINI INITIATIVE

**International Student Pastor: Tyler Penn**

I am a person of routine. I like the routine of the calendar, the traditions of church, the rhythm of the college schedule. May may be the most challenging month to a person who likes routine. It is the wrapping up of the spring semester and the beginning of summer session.

We have really enjoyed this semester. It has been filled with good memories, good conversations, and good moments for the kingdom of God. We are glad to be able to share a part of our students' good memories about their time here. This may be the first time they have ever watched the Super Bowl, or their first time to be in an American's home, or their first time to a church service. One of our students who joined us for Easter said, "This day was one of her best days in the U.S.". One of the biggest building blocks to any relationship are shared experiences. I also have thoroughly enjoyed the conversations I have been blessed to have with so many of our students. We were able to offer over 100 international students 12-15 different conversation group opportunities for this semester. My favorite conversation group being our Bible study time although it is hard to beat Friday's lunch conversation group. This semester I have been able to play a stronger pastoral role with some of students than I have been afforded in the past. These kingdom moments are anywhere from struggling with faith, to wrestling with peace, to thinking through grace. It is always a satisfying feeling to know that you have been able to have influence in someone's life for the good and that the influence is through the scriptures.

With the spring semester of English Corner now finished we look forward to the summer events. Summer English Corner is always interesting to see what past students stick around and what new students join the events. It is a summer packed with events, conversation groups, and bible study. In the past some of my best attended studies have been in the summer.

We thank you so much for the interest, prayer, and support you provide for our family and for our students. I look forward to possibly seeing some of you in the future as I travel around to our churches and camps sharing about what God is doing through international students.

## **MOUNT VERNON CHURCH**

**Pastor: Craig Smith Reporter: Linda Polston**

As I begin reporting this second week of May, summer is here! Do we wonder if Almighty God gets tired of hearing us complain about the weather? Perhaps He is taking good care of us if weather is our main concern. God has been taking good care of us in Mt. Vernon. We are happy and thankful we can see God moving to answer many of our prayer requests. We have been praying for some who were very ill and our Lord pulled them through. Thank you, Lord.

On May 8 we celebrated Mothers' Day when Brother Craig asked all mothers to line up in front of the church. All 26 of us were appreciated with a small gift.

There are some ladies in our church who volunteered to keep up with seasons and special occasions with floral arrangements. With the help of one young man for heavy lifting, they surprise us with beauty in the sanctuary as well as throughout the building.

Brother Craig also asked prayer for local Pastor Michael Piercy (Landmark Church) and his church family as they look for a meeting place since their fire.

Our Master's Men continue to meet the first Saturday of the month prayerfully searching for folks to help. Also, our WAC ladies are currently busy putting together needed personal hygiene items for people in need.

We look forward to having Paula Joy from Grace Haven join us Sunday, May 15 to tell us about their "Diaper Giveaway" ministry.

*"Happy are the people who show mercy,  
because they will receive mercy." - Matthew 5:7*

## **BENTON CHURCH**

**Pastor: Phillip Kennedy**

Hope everyone has had a great past month! We participated in a community Good Friday service in town. Easter Sunday was a great day as we celebrated our Risen Lord! We had several visitors. We have started back partnering with the First Baptist church of Benton to host a Good News Club at the Benton Grade school.

We enjoyed the CTS competition and thought all the kids did a great job!

On Sunday night, the 24th of April, Pastor Phillip went to hear Illian Perez speak at the Hazel Dell church. We also attended the South Central Illinois quarterly meeting at Hazel Dell Church.

Pastor Phillip attended the Pastors Breakfast on the first Monday of May. We had an Open Gym Night for the community on May 6th. We have enjoyed hosting these and will start back up in September.

Mother's Day service went well and that night Pastor Phillip and Delaney Leffler participated in the Baccalaureate service for the Benton High School seniors. We also had our Fellowship with the Pastor on the second Monday of the month. Britt Phillips from our church graduated from Kaskaskia College.

Some from our church participated in the ladies fellowship at Arnold View and the Masters Men Youth Fishing Tournament. On Sunday May 15th we had Tyler Penn share with us about what God is doing in Champaign and through their family to reach the world!

On June 12th we will have our 51st Homecoming Service at 10 a.m. with the Wanda Mountain Boys, Pastor Phillip will preach and we will have a fellowship meal immediately after service. Come and join us!

## **RESCUE CHURCH**

**Pastor Bryant Harris Reporter: Donna Harmon**

Hello from Rescue! It is so great to be outside and see the flowers and all the beauty God has allowed us to have. On March 13, Ryan Payne did the evening service.

Also, on March 13, a special love offering was taken to send for relief efforts to Ukraine.

April 9th was the Easter egg hunt and April 17th sunrise service was at 6:30 a.m. After service everyone enjoyed breakfast and then went to morning service. There were 93 in attendance.

May 4th was Ms Melinda's Tuesday School graduation. The church was full and mothers were standing holding their babies. Mother's Day was May 8<sup>th</sup>. Mothers could rest for the evening or go to a church of their choice.

May 14th was the Master Men's youth fishing tournament. Congratulations to Eva Harmon and Blakely Smith – who won First Place and to Broxton and Jevan Squires who won 2nd place.

May 22nd was Rescue Church Homecoming. Blessings to Ryan Payne who is our youth pastor, blessings to all workers at Camp Hope, and very special blessing to all our servicemen and women who have given us so much for our freedom. *"What an awesome God we serve!"*

## **BLUE POINT CHURCH**

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

On Easter Sunday morning our men cooked and served a delicious breakfast. David Mishler brought a devotion for our Resurrection Service after breakfast. Barry Simpson of the Free Will Baptist Foundation was with us on a Sunday evening. During our monthly fellowship he spoke to us about setting up a trust for the family's finances.

Several ladies are holding a book study on the Book of Hebrews. Vanessa Anderson is leading this study. Vanessa, Rachel Paul, and Suzanne Lewis attended the State WAC Fellowship at Arnold View. They donated several sets of sheets for the provision closet at IM.

At the CTS Competition Brother Ernie served as an emcee for Bible competition and Suzanne was a judge. It was a blessing to watch the youth use their talents for the Lord.

For their last session before summer break, the 'Connect Teens' were treated to a taco bar. The 7th and 8th Grade Sunday School class used their recent offerings to purchase items for the Compassion Pregnancy Center in Fairfield and for the homeless population in Birmingham.

Brother Ernie and Suzanne enjoyed the May pastor's breakfast held at the Bonnie Café at the Mt. Vernon Airport. They enjoyed the delicious food and fellowship.

We would like to congratulate our many graduates. Those finishing 8th grade include Emalie Matthews, Lane and Madison Britton, Addisyn Hutchcraft, Kadence Hyder, Noah Atkins, and Peyton Johnston. Sammy Hager graduated from high school. Jordan Hosick received his bachelor's degree and Haylee Walker earned her master's. Brother Ernie spoke at the Baccalaureate before the Cisne High School graduation.

We offer our sympathy to the family of Sheila Brown in the passing of her mother.

We congratulate new parents Bill and Christal Lewis and big brother Gideon on the birth of their new daughter Gabriella Lynn.

## **ARNOLD VIEW CHURCH**

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

Average Sunday School attendance during March was 76. The Women Active for Christ meetings were held on March 9 and April 6. Brother Tyler Penn shared about his ministry to International Students at the University of Illinois on March 13. Our annual Church Business Meeting was held that same evening.

A new Sunday School class began on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. The class provides an introductory look at the Bible while explaining what it means to be a church member. The class will last for 12 weeks.

Coy Settle accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior on April 10 and was baptized on April 24.

Average Sunday School attendance for April was 78.

Gene Parks, 83, passed away on April 22. Condolences to his family.

Our church hosted a Mother/Daughter Banquet on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

*"O send out thy light and thy truth..." – Psalm 43:3a*

## **Harmony Church**

**Interim Pastor: Kent Dunford Reporter: Cody Alstat**

Greetings from Harmony. On April 17th, several men of the church cooked breakfast before our Easter services. During our Morning Worship our Youth performed an Easter play and we want to thank everyone that helped us practice it.

On April 29th, Rev. Bob Stone went to be with his Lord and Savior.

Our youth went to the CTS Expo in Ina and the following are the places that our youth received. Taryn received 1st place on her textile design, Hailey and Kaitlynn received 1st place in their Dramatic Duo. Jacee received 2nd place for her Art project, Elijah received 2nd place for his painting and 2nd place for his Bible Memorization. Kaitlynn received 1st place for her painting.

We celebrated 190th years of ministry on May 1st with our former Pastor, Curtis Smith bringing the morning worship message. During the afternoon service we had Ted Cunningham and The Victory Boys Quartet perform during this service. We had a total of 101 in attendance that day.

The youth went to Emery Brothers on May 2nd for the last skating of the season, there were a total of 14 skaters in attendance. On Mother's Day we gave all of the mothers a flower and a cupcake to honor our mothers in attendance.

*"As you do not know the path of the wind, or how the body is formed in a mother's womb, so you cannot understand the work of God, the Maker of all things." Ecclesiastes 11:5*

## BEAR POINT CHURCH

**Pastor: Gowdy Cannon Reporter: Mona Lappin**

Summer has come early! But it's great to see the sunshine. And with warm weather comes lots of activities...We had our biggest crowd on *Mother's Day* as we celebrated together and honored some of our very special mothers. *Sister Jean Ragland* was honored as our most "Senior" mother. She also had the most family present, but graciously gave up a second gift to *Patty Kopec* who had about a dozen or so family members present. *Lisa Wierserma* (Sue Deans daughter) got the gift for traveling the farthest...with some "debate" between her and her sister.

The WAC have had a couple of "Ladies nights out", most recently to O'Charleys in Mt. Vernon. They hosted a Trivia Night at the church on Friday the 13th.

On Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup>, the ladies traveled to Arnold View for Ladies Fellowship to hear speaker Rachel Goode-missionary to Champaign. The church made donations of Wal-Mart gift cards to the WNAC Mission Provision Closet.

Maddie Kate Thompson hosted another Sister Saturday on the 14th, while the youth participated in the fishing event at Camp Hope.

We had several graduates this year beginning with our highest ranking graduate *Lauren Mygatt*. After years of hard work and dedication, Lauren graduated from the University of Southern Indiana, earning her Bachelor of Arts degree in Mathematics. She graduated with honors receiving the titles of *Magna Cum Laude* and the *Distinguished Graduate Honor*. We are SO proud of Lauren and her hard earned accomplishment. As her former teacher I can testify to her grit and determination. Pray for Lauren and her future career!

Brother Gowdy spoke at the High School Baccalaureate service this year. Those graduates from SV High School are *Katie Mygatt, Bailee Kirk, and Rylin Huie*. *Nate Ragland* also graduated from Waltonville. SV 8th grade grads are *Cohen Hollis, Layla Newbury, Trace Payne, and Kade Zimmerman*.

Our smallest graduates who completed Kindergarten at various schools are *Emerson Zsido, Nash Powell, Georgia Mandrell, Brantley Montgomery, Veda Dorris, and Harrison Hoekstra*.

Pray God will do BIG things in ALL our graduates lives!

*"May he grant your heart's desires and make all your plans succeed." - Psalm 20:4*

## HAZEL DELL CHURCH

**Pastor: Curtis Smith Reporter: Diana Kirk**

We hosted the S-V Ministerial Alliance Good Friday Service on Sunday, April 15<sup>th</sup>. Brother Kevin Bradley, the pastor from the Valier First Baptist Church delivered the message. Several people from the various churches in the community attended.

Our children enjoyed an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to all helped make this a fun event.

We had an Easter SonRise Service at 7:00 a.m. on Easter followed by a delicious breakfast prepared by the men. Regular Sunday School and morning worship services followed.

The Peppy Calebs met at Bonnie Café in West Frankfort on April 19<sup>th</sup> for lunch. Ten were in attendance.

Prayer meeting for May 4<sup>th</sup> was held at the Park in recognition of National Day of Prayer.

Congratulations to Titus Smith on his graduation from Tuesday School at the Rescue FWB Church. Also, congratulations to our two eighth grade graduates this year. Xavier Miller, son of Brother Justin Miller will graduate from Christopher Junior High on Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>. AnnaBelle LeVault, daughter of Brother Jon Paul and Sister Jennifer LeVault, will graduate from Sesser-Valier on Friday, May 27<sup>th</sup>.

We will not be having Senior Meals during the summer but will resume in the fall.

*"Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS - BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

**July 24 – 27 "Go The Extra Mile"**

# Oak Valley Church

**Pastor: Richard Brown Interim Pastor: Harry Thompson Reporter: Marie Rutger**

Greetings from our church as blessings flow. Brother Richard is improving and Brother Harry Thompson is filling in for us. We are having inspiring services.

We were sorry for the loss of Sister Shirley Byars when she left us and joined her heavenly family.

We had an Easter Sunrise Service with Brother Harry speaking, then breakfast, Sunday School and Brother David Shores brought the 11:00 am message. We were glad to have Brother David and Sister Pat with us.

An egg hunt followed the worship service.

Our women have a luncheon from 12-2 the 2nd Thursday of each month in the fellowship hall, where they eat and make quilts for sick or special needs of people.

Our annual picnic is June 5 at Sam Dale Lake.

Mother's Day was honored May 8 and Father's Day Breakfast is June 19th.

*"The Lord is more concerned with our availability than our capability because he knows our possibilities."*

## CAMP HOPE 2022 YOUTH CAMP SCHEDULE

**Leadership Camp:** June 1 – 3

**Junior/Senior Camp:** June 5 – 10

**Freshman/Sophomore Camp:** June 12 – 17

**Junior Camp:** (5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>) June 19 – 24

**Primary Camp:** (3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>) June 26 – 30

**Junior High Camp:** (7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>) July 3 – 8

Registry is easy this year. Just go online to [www.ilfwb.org](http://www.ilfwb.org) and download the 2022 Camp Registration Form, Leadership Camp Form or Ministry Placement Form. You may also download the Camp Brochure.



## ILLINOIS GLOBAL OUTREACH

personnel available for services at your church

**Shane and Joy Davison:** arriving in the U.S.

May 23<sup>rd</sup> for a 3 month furlough to visit.

**Emily Petty:** appointed for a two year internship in Japan. Seeking services.

**Daren and Dana Portell:** working and living in Taipei will be home in late summer.

**Joel and Lydia Teague:** working in France will be in the U.S. for four months.

## CTS BOARD REPORTS

Illinois had 100 entries for competition and 8 churches participating this year, with a couple of new churches taking part.

Everything went really well at the competition. We will announce our National Winners as soon possible after our meeting in Birmingham, Alabama in July.

Our goal is to expand the participation level to more churches and young people.

## 8<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL YOUTH FISHING TOURNAMENT

(Sponsored by the Illinois Master's Men)

### 1<sup>st</sup> Place Team:

Eva Harmon/Blakely Smith (Rescue Church)

Total weight: 4.45 lbs.

(Each received a trophy and a scholarship to Camp Hope)

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Team:

Broxton Squires/Jevin Squires (Rescue Church)

Total weight: 4.0 lbs.

(Each received a trophy)

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Team

Brooklyn Hicks/Alba Nebery (Bear Point Church)

Total weight: 3.68 lbs.

(Honorable Mention)

### Guppy Award – Smallest Fish

Eva Harmon (Rescue Church)

(Trophy)

# NEWSLETTER

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

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OR CURRENT RESIDENT

*Note: All articles submitted for publication for the July edition of the Illinois Newsletter must be received by June 15<sup>th</sup>. Several of our churches do not send news, but people in our state would like to hear of your programs and activities. It would bless and encourage others if we could hear from your church and district association.*

## WELCH COLLEGE NEWS

Welch College conferred degrees on 41 students May 6<sup>th</sup>. The college awarded degrees in multiple programs including Associates Degrees, Bachelor's Degrees, the Master of Arts Degree in Theology and Ministry and the Master of Arts in Teaching Degree.

The following listed students from Illinois are to be congratulated on completing their work and graduating with the Class of 2022:

**Benjamin Andrew Barcroft** (Jacksonville, Illinois) Intercultural Studies

– Bachelor of Arts Degree (Summa Cum Laude)

**Ryan Thomas Payne** (Ina, Illinois) – Biblical Studies

– Bachelor of Arts (Summa Cum Laude)

**Ashten Leigh Winter** (Decatur, Illinois) Intercultural Studies

– Bachelor of Arts Degree

**The Welch College Evangel Players** drama team presented their summer tour presentation of C.S Lewis' "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" in 14 services in 5 states. The three week tour brought them to the Ina Church on May 24<sup>th</sup> and to the Hazel Dell Church on May 26<sup>th</sup>.