



ILLINOIS FREE WILL BAPTIST

MAY 2022

NEWSLETTER

A monthly publication for Illinois Free Will Baptist families

MOUNT VERNON CHURCH

Pastor: Craig Smith Reporter: Linda Polston

April was a hectic month for us most importantly with remembering Jesus' death and celebrating His resurrection on the 17th. We began with Sunrise Service at 6:00 a.m. followed by breakfast, Sunday School and Morning Worship. After all that we gave our youngsters some fun with an Easter egg hunt.

We are back into Bible studies with Brother Craig teaching about gifts. After our April 6 study ended, business meeting began.

Brother Craig attended quarterly meeting at Blue Point on Saturday, April 9.

Our Master's Men were spending Saturday, April 9 taking care of some much needed church maintenance. They meet on the first Saturday of each month for devotion and to decide on projects.

Our women meet the third Wednesday each month for devotion and sharing God's love. A current project for them has been collecting toiletries for homeless people.

Coffee with Pastor Craig Smith is held the second Tuesday each month. We had 21 in attendance last month for a glorious time. Excitement is in the air as we work 'til Jesus comes!

"A merry heart doeth good like a medicine."

- Proverbs 17:22

NEW HOPE CHURCH

Interim Pastor: Larry Cook Reporter: Kaitlyn Catron

On March 6th we welcomed Brother Larry Cook as our interim pastor. After the morning service a celebration dinner was held for Brother Larry's birthday and for Brother Larry and Sister Linda's anniversary! Cards and gifts cards were given in honor of the occasion. They also joined the church. We appreciate their willingness to minister to our congregation. Usually on the 3rd Sunday of every month Brother Nick Catron brings God's word to us.

Our church was represented at the state meeting. Also Rhonda McLearn and Jackie Capps enjoyed the WAC district meeting at Arnold View.

Several people from the church also attended and rejoiced at the combined worship service at Hazel Dell.

On the first 2 days of April our youth group and adult helpers had a great time at Big Splash in French Lick, Indiana.

May God bless all of us as we strive to serve Him.

EIGHTH ANNUAL MASTER'S MEN YOUTH FISHING TOURNAMENT!

SATURDAY, MAY 14th at CAMP HOPE – 9:00am

Contact Nathan Beaty for additional information:

618-927-5978



PITTSBURG CHURCH

Pastors: Eddie Donelson and Keith McDannel

Reporter: Heather Phillips

Greetings from PFWBC! Praying every one of you had a blessed Resurrection Sunday! "The resurrection of Christ changed the midnight of bereavement into a sunrise of reunion; it changed the midnight of disappointment into a sunrise of joy; it changed the midnight of fear to a sunrise of peace." - *Billy Graham*

God poured out His blessings upon our service on Resurrection Sunday! We were able to pour His love into more than 275 souls for SonRise service and 480 for worship! The men of PFWBC prepared an amazing breakfast for the church, and we appreciate all their efforts.

This month we will host our annual Women's Banquet on Tuesday, May 3 at 6:00 pm. The preparations and final details are being made and we are excited to fellowship with the women of PFWBC and their families. The theme for our banquet is "Making Your Life Quilt." "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future". - Jeremiah 29:11

Also, in May, we look forward to our annual Dutch Anderson Memorial Day Fish Fry! The fryers start early and the aroma begins draw in the crowds! We are excited to see God's hand throughout the coming month.

Happy Mother's Day to all of the mothers at our sister churches!

"There are many virtuous and capable women in the world, but you surpass them all! Charm is deceptive, and beauty does not last; but a woman who fears the LORD will be greatly praised. - Proverbs 31:29-30

The HOPE is in you in 2022!

BLUE POINT CHURCH

Pastor: Ernie Lewis Reporter: Suzanne Lewis

Brother Ernie attended the State Association at Calvary Church. Suzanne was able to join him for the Friday evening banquet. They were also able to attend one night of the revival at Calvary.

Several of our ladies recently concluded a book study on "Before Amen" by Max Lucado, led by Vanessa Anderson. Vanessa will now be leading a study about the Book of Hebrews, "Hebrews For You". Suzanne joined Kathy Hayes and Amy Johnson of Calvary on a trip to Huntington, West Virginia to attend the WAC sponsored "Flourish" event. There were amazing speakers, the fellowship was sweet, and the lunch catered by Chick Fil-A was delicious.

Several attended a "Sprinkle" for Bill and Christal Lewis as their son Gideon will be joined by sister, Gabriella, soon. Our annual Volleyball Tournament between Sunday school classes has concluded. In the Championship Game, the Young Professionals team (led by Lance Endsley) defeated the Kingdom Builders class. Both the players and the spectators enjoyed the times of snacks and fellowship after our Sunday evening services.

We celebrated paying off the mortgage on the Link during a special part of a Sunday morning service. We recognized all the building committee members and the Byars men for all the hard work they put into this project. Our banker, Nic Allison, of Fairfield National Bank (who was raised in Blue Point) attended the service with his family and participated in the burning of the note. We rejoice in God's blessings.

We hosted the April East Central District quarterly meeting. The special program was gospel singing by Becky Jones Lercher and The Victory Boys.

Spots Remain for Boot Camp



North American Ministries will host its next **Pastors Boot Camp** Monday-Tuesday, May 2-3 at the National Offices in Antioch, Tennessee.

Pastors will hear from veterans in ministry on topics including creating a culture of evangelism, discipleship, developing leaders, spiritual warfare, and much more. Registration is free, but space is limited. Reserve your spot by calling 615-760-6137 or emailing nam@nafwb.org.

BENTON CHURCH

Pastor: Phillip Kennedy

This past month has definitely been busy. We are thankful that the weather is warming up as well. The Illinois Free Will Baptist State meeting was an encouraging time. We were thankful to see so many of our missionaries there. Some from our church enjoyed the joint church service at Hazel Dell Church the Sunday night after State meeting.

Norma Page a very precious church member passed away in March. Her funeral was held at our church... she is missed.

We hosted our second Open Gym Night on April 1st. This time instead of just youth, we opened it to the whole family. We had a great turn out and a fun night. Our next Open Gym Night is May 6th and it too will be open to the whole family.

Pastor Phillip Kennedy attended the Pastors breakfast at the Bonnie Cafe in Mount Vernon on the first Monday of April.

Sundays, in April, we have been focusing on the events leading up to Easter! On Palm Sunday we celebrated the Lord's Supper together. On April 11th we had our second fellowship with the pastor. We meet the second Monday of each month at 9:00 am and have coffee, donuts and fellowship. It is definitely an encouraging time.

We are thankful for our Risen Savior and are looking forward to CTS competition. May God bless His Church as we all minister in His Name!

HAZEL DELL CHURCH

Pastor: Curtis Smith Reporter: Diana Kirk

Happy Spring!!

On Sunday, March 20, we held a joint evening service. It was an amazing night of fellowship. Bear Point, Benton, Ezra, Harmony, New Hope, Rescue, SIWC, Waltonville and Whiteash were all represented. There were 202 in attendance. Brother Andy Lee was the guest speaker and he did an awesome job with his message of "Shut the Door". Special music and a skit were also performed. Pastors' wives were recognized and presented with gifts in appreciation of their service. Looking forward to future joint services!

Our Bible study group has begun. The group meets every other Monday evening at 6:30 p.m. The study is entitled "Knowing Jesus: Living by His Name".

Wednesday evening in person services have begun again. Pizza and snacks are at 6:30 with Brother Curtis leading us in message. Next, the children go for their study and craft time. Most adults stay around to visit while the children have their time. It has been so good to be able to fellowship with each other.

Brother Jon Paul LeVault's Deacon Ordination service will be on Sunday, May 22 at 2:00 p. m. Please join us for this very special occasion.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." - John 3:16

HARMONY CHURCH

Interim Pastor: Kent Dunford Reporter: Cody Alstat

Greetings from Harmony, our church went to Hazel Dell on March 20th and we had a wonderful service. We want to thank everyone that helped make this a special service. Our sisters of strength made and delivered spring baskets to the shut-in on March 26th. Brother Kent had surgery on March 21st and Brother Dink Phelps preached during our evening worship on March 27th when we had our quarterly Birthday & Anniversary meal after our evening worship. Rev. Gene Blades went to be with his Heavenly Father at 3:00 p.m. on Friday, April 8th, 2022 by his family by his side. The youth went to Emery Brothers on April 4th for our monthly outing and we had 7 skaters in attendance. Our Masters Men and Sisters of Strength met for our monthly meeting on April 5th. We worked on mailing flyers out for our upcoming homecoming service to invite member from the past to join us celebrate our 190th year of ministry. We are having our Homecoming services on May 1st with Brother Curtis Smith and guest speaker Ted Cunningham to give a devotion before the Victory Boys singing group in the afternoon.

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is Christ Jesus:" - Romans 3:23-24

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Illinois State Association of Free Will Baptists
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PRAYER REQUESTS FROM DENNIS and CAROL TEAGUE

We have had for over a year, Christian men from Ukraine coming to the St. Nazaire church because they are working in the shipyards. They speak very little French or English, so our conversations are extremely limited. Google translate does help some! Being separated from their families is difficult but you can imagine with the war and their not being able to help get their families out. Thankfully several of the families have left the country. Two wives and their children have arrived to join their husbands in St. Nazaire. Our church people found a house "for free" for one family until the end of June and gifts from the church and the owner have it furnished. (The homeowner is a friend of a church member and wants to visit the church now!) The other family has been provided with an apartment for a short time. Two other families are safe in Germany and cared for so they will remain there for a while.

We mentioned about all the people coming to our churches in the newsletter. The good news! But at St. Nazaire, our families are really being attacked by problems. We would ask you to pray for reconciliation and salvation in several families – some are both Christians, some have one believer and one not, married for years or some relatively newlyweds, and others thinking of marriage. We had a couples' seminar at St. Nazaire with Jerry and Barb Gibbs the 25th, 26th and 27th of April. One couple made a very important decision at the end. Praise the Lord for them and their future.

Also at Mosaique (La Haie Fouassière) there are disappointments in some who have made professions of faith and have dropped out. Another is struggling in his commitment to the Lord. Then there are others who are still making progress but moving forward is very slow. We need God's wisdom in dealing with these situations and prayers for all of them.

All our family is doing well. We're thankful for them and their part in the Mosaique church. We are always feeling blessed to be near them.

May God's grace and peace be with all of you,
Dennis and Carol