



ILLINOIS FREE WILL BAPTIST

SEPTEMBER 2022

# NEWSLETTER

A monthly publication for Illinois Free Will Baptist families

**ANNUAL CAMP MEETING at Camp Hope – September 11-14**

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

**Sunday Music: Arnold View Church**

**Monday Music: Ina Church**



**Tuesday Music: Ina Church**

**Wednesday Music: Hazel Dell Church**

**Evangelist: Brother Howard Bass**

-----*No Children's Church provided this year.*-----

## **MASTER'S MEN RETREAT**

**September 15 – 16 - 17**

**Brother Andy Lee, Pastor of Whiteash Church is the Preacher**

**From Thursday evening until Saturday morning, the retreat will feature Bible studies, trap-shooting, fishing, horse shoe pitching, pie auction, communion, and other activities.**

**(Free Admission - Sponsored by the Illinois Master's Men)**

## **CAMP HOPE NEEDS A CARETAKER/MANAGER**

"The board of Camp Hope would like to thank Cody Hiller for his years of service as our camp caretaker. We wish him and his family the best as he transitions from the position of camp caretaker to other opportunities. Having received Cody's resignation letter, we are now looking for a new camp caretaker. Anyone interested in the caretaker's position may send their resume to the following address:

**Bryant Harris 14294 Paulton Road Pittsburg, Illinois 62974**

## **THE BRIDGE CHURCH (Champaign, IL)**

**Pastor: Ed Goode**

### **Pastor and wife commissioned as Church Planters**

It's been a busy summer in Champaign. We've had some great Sunday meetings and other outreach opportunities during the warmer months. We're thankful to have welcomed several guests over the last few months, many of whom have become part of our church family.

Along with the regular rhythms of ministry, we've also been travelling so raise support as well. We started off driving to North Carolina over Memorial Day Weekend. Rachel and I lived in eastern North Carolina for the first seven years of our marriage, so that part of the world always feels like home. We were refreshed by visits with some good friends and able to speak at three of our partnering churches in Greenville and Fuquay-Varina, NC and Chesapeake, Virginia.

In June we moved to our new meeting space at an events center in the middle of town. This was a huge answer to prayer. We love our new meeting space, and it definitely gave us some momentum heading into the summer.

In July we hosted a teen mission team from Gateway Church in Virginia Beach. This group worked hard all week and served us so well. We handed out over 1000 invitations to church and had over 40 kids attend our VBS. The group was a blessing to our church and to Rachel and to me personally as well.

We traveled to the National in July. What a blessing to see so many friends all in one place! We were formally commissioned as NAM church planters at the Wednesday night missions service, and were so thankful for the opportunity to be here. Thank you for your support, none of this could happen without you!

## **FIRST CHURCH – BENTON (Benton, IL)**

**Pastor: Phillip Kennedy**

### **Church hosted 5 day Club for children in July**

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ. We have had a good summer, hope that you have too. We hosted a 5-day Club at our church from July 18-22. The kids that came had a great time! We are thankful for Child Evangelism Fellowship for providing this opportunity.

Pastor Phillip Kennedy and family left for the National Convention on Saturday, July 23rd. The Convention was quite the blessing this year from Worship services to seminars to competition and even the business. We have much to pray about this year. In Pastor Kennedy's absence for the National Convention, Brother Ivan Ryan filled the pulpit on that Sunday morning. A Huge Thank You to him. Mike Thomas filled in for Sunday School and David Gibbons filled in on Wednesday night.

The Sunday following the National Convention we had a Potluck style meal to celebrate our birthdays and anniversaries from the past quarter. Pastor Phillip attended the Pastor's Breakfast on September 1st at the Bonnie Cafe in Mount Vernon. In our monthly business meeting on the first Wednesday of the month we voted to move our Wednesday night Bible study back to 6p.m starting in September. Our Ladies (WNAC) will be hosting a rummage sale on September 10th from 9A.M till ? The proceeds will go to help with Missions.

The South Central Illinois Quarterly meeting was held at our church on the first Saturday of August. James Kennedy shared the devotion he made for the National Convention and we gave an update about the National Convention. Our church ladies met for a fellowship time on August 13th. We had some attend the Youth Rally at Harmony Church on August 14th. We also had our Monthly Fellowship with the Pastor on August 15th. We are looking forward to what God has in store for us in the month to come. We are praying for all students, teachers and school staff as they have return to School that they will have a safe blessed school year.

### **NOTES CONCERNING PASTORS**

**Brother Bruce Thurman** has recovered from his stroke and is now active and available to fill the pulpit and conduct revival meetings. We were happy that he is now feeling well enough to continue in the Lord's work. If you need him, call 618-579-5918 or e-mail [Godisnotdoneyet22@yahoo.com](mailto:Godisnotdoneyet22@yahoo.com)

**Brother Richard Brown** has resigned as pastor at Oak valley Church. Pray for the church as they seek a pastor, and for Brother Richard as he undergoes another hip/leg surgery in the next few weeks.

**Brother Ryan Payne** was ordained to the ministry at the Ina Church on Sunday afternoon, August 21<sup>st</sup>. He is presently serving as Youth Minister at the Rescue Church.

## **BLUE POINT CHURCH (Cisne, IL)**

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

### **Church planning 125<sup>th</sup> Homecoming in October**

Brother Ernie and Suzanne attended the National Convention in Birmingham, Alabama. Brother Ernie served as Assistant Clerk. Suzanne judged Bible Tic-Tac-Toe. Also attending from our church were Steve, Rachel, and Alex Paul, and Brendan and Elissa Harrison. They attended competition, seminars, the youth services, and even took one morning to tour a cave.

The Link recently served as a site for a Food Giveaway sponsored by the Tri-State Food Bank. We also hosted a Red Cross Blood Drive and provided food for all those who came.

We had our usual 'Taco-in-a-Bag' stand at the annual Cisne Reunion. We also hosted the Saturday morning children's games and passed out free bottles of water during the parade. Many of our people attended Church Night on Wednesday to hear "The Perrys".

We recently held a service with our own Shane and Joy Davison. They gave an excellent presentation about their work in France. We also held our annual Back-to-School Sunday. All students and staff were recognized. Special prayer was held for them. Each student received a key chain with a Bible verse on its ribbon.

## **HAZEL DELL CHURCH (Sesser, IL)**

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

### **Master's Men Dinner scheduled in September**

Happy Fall! Even though fall hasn't officially arrived we are anxiously awaiting the beauty and splendor God will provide in the next few weeks.

Brother Curtis and family attended the 2022 National Convention in Birmingham, Alabama. Their son, Titus, competed in the Bible Memorization Competition. He scored a 99.4 % against 20 other competitors from across the United States. Congratulations, Titus!! We are so proud of the awesome job you did for God. Keep up the good work.

We participated in the prayer walk at the Sesser School on August 10th as local churches met for prayer for our faculty, staff and students for the 2022-23 school year.

Our Master's Men group has resumed their meetings. Eleven men and boys met on Sunday, August 14th for their monthly breakfast and devotion time. Brother Mike Sample cooked the breakfast and Brother Justin Miller delivered the devotion. All men and boys are invited to attend. They plan to meet on the second Sunday morning each month at 8:30 a.m.

Men, mark your calendars for the Master's Men Dinner which is being planned for September 24th at 5:00 p.m. This is always a good time of food, fellowship, singing and message.

October 9<sup>th</sup> is our Homecoming Day at Hazel Dell. I look forward to this day each year. Brother Eric Drake is planning to be with us to deliver the message. Joe Arview will be singing for us. Hope you all can come join us.

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

## **FIRST CHURCH (Mount Vernon, IL)**

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

### **Planning outdoor baptismal for two new converts**

Busy, busy, busy. Brother Craig has a wonderful fall lineup for us here in Mount Vernon. Not to complain, however, because we have time to rest up, study up, and pray up for our upcoming events.

"Back to School" supplies and backpacks were given to the children of our church on a recent Sunday morning with Sister Marcella making the presentations.

On Saturday, August 27, 2022 come on down, up or over for some watermelon and homemade ice cream at 5:00 pm. Come expecting a good time. Excited yet? Wait, there's more!

On Saturday, September 3, 2022 the new Rural King store is having, "Customer Appreciation Day" and we have been invited to provide people to serve their hot dogs plus other goodies from 9 am until 3 pm. We can also sell baked goods we provide, plus, we will be allowed a donation jar for church donations. How sweet is that? All of Mount Vernon will have the opportunity to see our church busy for our Lord. *(Continued on Page 4)*

(Continued from Page 3) Come one and all to a concert by The Family Sowell, not in Branson where they usually appear, but right here at Mount Vernon First Free Will Baptist Church (2610 Logan Street). This family is a bluegrass gospel group of six siblings. They will be at our church on Sunday night, October 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. Love offering is the only charge so give accordingly.

We are praying for our revival scheduled for October 16<sup>th</sup> thru 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm each evening. Before the revival, on Saturday evening, October 15<sup>th</sup>, we are having a Fall Harvest Social at the church at 5:00 pm, with pork burgers, hot dogs and all the trimmings.

Finally, pray for two new converts saved at our church In August who are scheduled in Pam Wooden's pond next month.

## **PITTSBURG CHURCH (Pittsburg,IL)**

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

### **Hosting "He Keeps Me Singing" on September 13<sup>th</sup>**

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 our theme was "IN JESUS' TIME." It referenced the scripture of Psalm 90:4 *"For a thousand years in Your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night."*

We had a great time choosing songs that used the words about time, like "Sweeter As The Days Go By", "In His Time", "Ten Thousand Years" and many more! We are so thankful for those who gave up a MOMENT of their TIME and came to join us for an HOUR of praise and worship to our God. We pray it gave them strength for the DAYS, WEEKS, and MONTHS ahead. The next "HE KEEPS ME SINGING" will be on September 13 in the PFWBC Chapel at 6:30pm. Everyone is always welcome and we know you do not want to miss this special service.

Vacation Bible School was a HUGE success! We were blessed with so many smiling faces on the kids and on all of our wonderful volunteers!! It was a fast-paced week and everyone, including the workers, had an amazing time! *"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. I challenge you all to meditate on this verse, cling to it, and let it become part of you so that you live it day by day and hour by hour. Let it take hold of your heart and move you through your life. Allow our Heavenly Father to teach you what it means to cling to Him, and only Him. We are praying for our schools, students, and teachers-- for their safety, purpose, focus, and more! *The HOPE is in you in 2022!*

## **HARMONY CHURCH (West Frankfort, IL)**

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

### **Praying for Mark King as he goes to his mission work**

Greetings from Harmony. Tyler Penn came and spoke about his ministering on June 26<sup>th</sup>. On July 3<sup>rd</sup> we took time to appreciate and celebrate our independence and freedom as a nation. We held our VBS on July 11<sup>th</sup> – July 15<sup>th</sup> and we averaged 30 kids each night. We went on an adventure on Discovery on Adventure Island, we had 5 pathfinders that we had to find during our week and the kids really enjoyed it. Thank you to everyone that came out and helped with making it another successful year.

Our church decided to put new carpet down in our classroom area. If you have never had to empty all of your classrooms out before, you don't realize how much stuff your church has until you have to move it all.

Thank you to everyone that came out to help us move the furniture in and out of the classrooms.

Tedra and Kent went on vacation on July 16<sup>th</sup> – July 20<sup>th</sup> to Branson with their family. We hope that they enjoyed their time off and being able to spend time with their family. We had Brother Mark King talk about his mission work and where he is going to be ministering. Brother Ted spoke during our evening service and sang us a beautiful song before his message. During our evening service on July 24<sup>th</sup>, we had two people ask to join the church. We welcomed Linda and Russell Hall as members of Harmony. We had a small party for Brother Mark, a going away party on July 24<sup>th</sup>. Aaron rededicates himself to God and he feels led to preach, please keep this young man in your prayers during these next few weeks. *"To all who received him, to those who believe in his name, he gave the right to become children of God*

*– children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. - John 1:12-13*

## **WALTONVILLE CHURCH (Waltonville, IL)**

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

### **Reports three people saved, ordains a deacon.**

Hello from Waltonville Free Will Baptist Church. Yes, it has been a while since we posted anything from Waltonville. We have great news to share with you all. We have seen three people come to be saved since the first of the year and we give all the Glory and Praise for it to the Lord. Please keep Sisters Cathy Hutcherson, Jezika Mills, and Brylee Kuhner in prayer as they start their spiritual lives out.

Back on March 27<sup>th</sup>, Brother Brad Beckham was ordained as a deacon at our church. Brother Curtis Smith came to help by giving the charge. We thank him for coming and assisting me and our church with this. We were challenged by the Lord with a thought at the first of the year (5 souls for Jesus in 2022). He has given us three and we are looking forward to see what all He's going to do here at Waltonville.

Waltonville Free Will Baptist Church made history on the 5th of June by conducting the very first baptizing inside the church that any could remember. It had been a number of years since anyone had been baptized anywhere else either. We praise the Lord for His great blessings! We thank the Lord that our attendance has been very good. Our food pantry has gone up and down but we are still over 40 each month. Our supplier was shut down, but God just opened a door for another supplier we are giving out each month. We want to thank the Ina ladies auxiliary for the help with our food pantry as well.

Hopefully we will get a new roof put on soon. Please keep praying for our church as we continue to hold fast to the Lord and He will guide us each step of the way.

## **ARNOLD VIEW CHURCH (Creal Springs, IL)**

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

### **Homecoming Day on September 18<sup>th</sup>**

Average Sunday School Attendance during July was 77. The Women Active For Christ Meeting was held on July 20. Pastor Adam Brown has been preaching a series of message on The Sermon On The Mount. We collected nearly 50 bags to distribute to the homeless for the Impact Birmingham Outreach. Brother Gilbert Craig brought the Evening Worship Message on July 24. Brother Ivan Ryan brought the Morning Worship Message on July 31. Our Fifth Sunday Song Service was held that evening. Arnold View was well represented at the National Convention. Our Homecoming Service is scheduled for September 18. Brother Doug Little will be speaking and singing.

*"Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth." -Matthew 5:5*

## **RESCUE CHURCH (Ewing, IL)**

**Pastor Bryant Harris Reporter Donna Harmon**

### **Welcomes back Pastor Bryant Harris**

Hello from rescue, we have our pastor back. Good news, when he went to see the doctor he said that he could not believe how far he has accomplished his leg movement. On Sunday he told us he was really glad to wear a suit again. There for a while in the beginning he said he wondered if he would ever get to wear one again. Sunday was a special day the message was great and at the end Brother Bryant was saying we all would leave our illness behind when we go home. Brother Bryant said even his bolts and screws will be left behind. He still has several weeks left to be very careful.

In July, Bryson Foulks was special speaker for his missionary work in France. VBS was 18th- 20th of July, with an average attendance of 40 children and 18 helpers. July 31st was the church cookout. They got a good rain but it turned nice before it was time to eat dinner. Back to last Sunday and how special Brother Bryant had everyone read the Free Will Baptist Church Covenant followed by prayer. Then everyone went down to greet and shake hands with four that joined our church. Our youth pastor Brother Ryan and his wife Olivia Payne, and Andrew and wife, Sarah, Parker. Zane Harmon has been carry out stewardship. He went to leadership training at Welch College for work at the National Convention in Birmingham, Alabama.

Brother Ryan was ordained into the ministry August 21st at the Ina Church. What would we do without our special blessings? *"What an awesome God we serve!"*

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

*Have a Happy Labor Day!*

*Note: All articles submitted for publication for the October edition of the Illinois Newsletter must be received by September 15<sup>th</sup>.  
Send all correspondence to: [davids@mvfreewillbaptist.org](mailto:davids@mvfreewillbaptist.org)*

## ILLINOIS HAS 21 FIRST PLACE NATIONAL CTS WINNERS!

Choir – Ina AB Choir, Cat. B  
Quartets – Ina Boys, Cat. A  
Quartets – Ina B Quartet  
Quartets – Ina Girls, Cat. C  
Quartets –  
Impact Quartet, Cat. D  
Group Drama – Ina A Skit  
Group Drama – Ina B Skit  
Dramatic Duo-  
Jenkins Duo – Ina, Cat. A  
The Harmony Girls, Cat. D

Painting – Ava Settle – Arnold View  
Bible Memorization-  
Grade 8 – Allie Jane Dwyer- Arnold View  
Grade 2 – Oakley Hiller – Ina  
Recorder Puppetry-  
Lift Him Up Puppets A – Ina  
Lift Him Up Puppets B – Ina  
Lift Him Up Puppets C – Ina  
Photo Essay-  
Alba Newberry – Bear Point, Cat. B  
Layla Newberry – Bear Point – Cat. C  
Joshua Loyd – Arnold View – Cat. D

Video Production-  
Stephen Lewis – Northwest  
Sculpted Clay-  
Mya Dwyer – Arnold View, Cat. B  
Long Article-  
Brianna Roper- Pleasant View, Cat. C

*NOTE: These are only the First Place winners. For a complete list of all our young people who won 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place at the Nationals, please go to our Illinois website : [ILFWB.ORG](http://ILFWB.ORG)*

The National Convention in Birmingham was certainly uplifting, encouraging and challenging. The entire convention, from the business meetings, seminars, youth activities and worship services were just what we needed. There were 4,038 attendees and delegates, and we adopted a budget of \$31,400,000 for 2023. One of the downside reports told us that we have lost 41 churches last year and 212 churches are without a pastor. You can get a comprehensive report in the August/September issue of ONE Magazine. Be sure to read all about it!