



Illinois Free Will Baptist

August 2015

Newsletter

BROTHER CLIFFORD HICKS WITH THE LORD

Brother Clifford Hicks, 87 died on July 7 at his home in Waltonville, Illinois. Funeral services were held at the Waltonville Church on July 11 with Pastors Ivan Ryan and Curtis Smith officiating.

Brother Clifford served his country in the United States Navy during WWII. He worked for the Missouri Pacific Railroad, Vernois Stove Foundry in Mt. Vernon, Freeman

Coal Mine No. 3 in Waltonville and then last for Good Samaritan Regional Health Center in Mt. Vernon. During this time Brother Clifford also served as pastor for various Free Will Baptist churches in Jefferson, Franklin and Wayne counties.

For many years he served as Illinois State Treasurer and was a member of the Executive Board for the Illinois State Association of Free Will Baptists. He was a member of the Waltonville Free Will Baptist Church where he served as pastor on two separate occasions. He was loved greatly by his wife, Maxine, children and grandchildren. Fellow pastors and the churches he served loved him as well. He will be greatly missed. Please pray for the family during this time of loss.



Brother
Clifford Hicks

PITTSBURG CHURCH – Pittsburg

We are full force into VBS week and Camp Kilimanjaro has been an epic adventure indeed! Lots of little souls have crossed the threshold of God's house this week and are so excited to be here. We are doing a walk through the book of Proverbs-Bible truth time, crafts, snacks, worship time, and of course water games round out each night! It is such an amazing opportunity and privilege to get to plant the Gospel seeds each and every night! God's Word does not return void and we are standing on that promise! ☺ We pray that your VBS is touching hearts and changing lives in your neck of the woods as well.

By the time this letter gets out to you, we will be just days away from the first day of school!? How did that happen so fast? Where did summer even go? With school starting we will also be having our annual "Back 2 School Bash." We will be giving away free school supplies, haircuts, prizes, and more. Dental Safari will also be here performing dental exams for the upcoming school year. It is open to anyone who would like to attend and it is completely FREE. It will be from 6-8pm on Wednesday, August 5th. If you know someone in our area that could benefit from the Bash, send them our way. Thanks!

Here is a quick recap from some of the things that have taken place over the summer...Our Youth Group gave their report on their mission trip to Nashville, Tennessee on Sunday, July 5th where they held a VBS for a new church -New Seasons Church. The mission took them out of their comfort zone of World Changers and placed them in a vacant parking lot with a white tent and a sign, depending solely on God to draw the kids to Him. And He did! They had a great week with lots of memories and seeds planted. Our Summer Son program ended on Thursday, July 9th. There was an average of 28 kids each day for the 5 week program. The kiddos had a great time and weren't ready for it to end! Just like everything on this earth, all good things must come to an end at some point. Makes us long for home even more, where the BEST thing will have no end! Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Pastor: Eddie Donelson

Reporter: Christina Wilcox

RESCUE CHURCH - Rural Whittington

Another year has gone by and we celebrated another Homecoming on May 24. Brother Johnnie Hollis brought the message, the Victory Boys provided our special music and the ladies prepared a wonderful dinner.

On June 3, James Dalton Acosta began several weeks of leading "The Family Project" on Wednesday evenings.

A "full meal auction" was held on June 7 to raise funds for the young people who will be attending the National CTS Competitive activities in Grand Rapids, Michigan. On June 11 a car wash fundraiser was held at Domino's parking lot. Then, on June 19 another CTS fundraiser, sponsored by Helia Care, was held at the Kiwanis Hall. Thanks to Leigha Heater and Katrina Beaty for all their help with this project

The young people had a lot of fun at the "Kid's Fishing Tournament" at Camp Hope on June 20. A fantastic hot dog roast with all the trimmings was provided.

On July 8 the ladies took their annual trip to help at Camp Hope and took lots of fresh fruit for the campers to enjoy.

Our VBS is scheduled for July 27-31. Send your children out to Rescue Church and April Harmon and the many other devoted people will help make lots of fun, food and safety for your child. Most importantly, they will help mold their lives with Christ!

"What an awesome God we serve!"

Pastor: Bryant Harris

Reporter: Donna Harmon

FIRST CHURCH – Mount Vernon

July was an exciting month for Mount Vernon Church. We had 4 people join the church: Doris Carman, Penny Janicki and Don and Marian Williams. Penny Janicki was baptized July 12.

There was an offering taken during the month of July for "Faith Comes by Hearing" in honor of the military. This will enable the men and women in the military to be able to hear the Bible via a very small audio device. They are not allowed to carry a Bible with them.

The WAC met July 6 for a meal prepared by Esther Edwards and assisted by Cora Flota. After the meal Sister Pat Shores presented the lesson and we planned a fundraiser for July 26th after the morning service for Rachel Schweitzer. Rachel is on a mission trip to China for another year. She is the grand daughter to Esther Edwards.

Now, for the not so good news – Brother Clifford Hicks went on to be with the Lord July 7th. He will be missed by everyone that knew him. Our prayers go out to his family.

We have had so many in our church that has been sick, had surgery, going to therapy, etc. There are many more on our prayer list and sad to read all the names. God is still on the throne and we just lift these people up to Him.

"Following the Lord with doubt in your mind is like driving with the brakes on."

Pastor: David Shores

Youth Minister: Phillip Kennedy

Reporter: Donnie Shurtz

PLEASANT VIEW CHURCH – Rural Walnut Hill

We are having a good summer here at Pleasant View. During the month of June we had Sunday afternoon church services with the residents at Centralia Manor. It was a blessing to worship with them and spend time together.

Also, Everest Expedition VBS took place at the church during June. Students learned about Elijah and Elisha and God's great power, love, and forgiveness. Our youth group performed a skit each night that reinforced the truth taught in the Bible lesson, and memory games helped us learn a Bible verse each night. Also, volunteers prepared supper to feed everyone all week, and during crafts students worked together to make warm blankets to donate to a mission work.

Rachel Maas and Brook Proctor attended Junior Camp at Camp Hope along with Jeanne Lund who served as camp nurse that week. Caleb Proctor attended Freshman/Sophomore Camp.

The Women Active for Christ sponsored a reading program for kids age birth-Senior in highschool using the many Christian books and missionary stories that have been donated to our church library the last few years. Participants will receive awards during a ceremony July 26th during church.

David and Susan Burgess, Patty Simpson, and Paula Hayes attended the East Central District meeting.

Pastor: David Burgess

Reporter: Holly Hayes

BLUE POINT CHURCH – Rural Cisne

In the past month we have had several missionaries at our church. Josh and Ashley Bennett of The Springs Church in Marana, Arizona were with us and he preached for us on a Sunday morning, then preached at Junior-Senior Camp. Shane and Joy Davison spent a couple of weeks in Illinois and presented their ministry in Aix-en-Provence, France on a Sunday morning. Josh and Jennifer Detherage, who have served in Mongolia for five years with ELIC, shared their new plans as they transition to teaching English to international students at a university in Kentucky.

Through the course of the summer we sent numerous campers and workers to Camp Hope. We also provided desserts on two separate days and sent several kitchen workers to help on those days. Jon Hill is now at the Truth and Peace Leadership Conference in Nashville, Tennessee.

We hosted a wedding shower for Brian Brown and Katelyn Durbin who will be married on Saturday, July 18th in Shelbyville. Another couple from our church, Megan Byars and Eric Spitzner, recently announced their engagement and will be married in October.

Work has finally begun on our new building. Wet weather has hindered this start for some weeks, but the crew has now poured the foundation and are pouring walls to prepare for the floor. We are excited with their progress and the prospect of this new fellowship hall being completed late this fall.

The ladies of the church prepared and served a meal for the family of Harold Block after his recent funeral. Brother Ernie and Suzanne attended the East Central District meeting held at the Calvary Free Will Baptist Church in Salem.

Pastor: Ernie Lewis

Reporter: Suzanne Lewis

HARMONY CHURCH – Rural West Frankfort

Well, here I am trying to remember what went on in June. I have been out of state and have to rely on other people for the news. June 7th was picnic in the park. I believe there were around 141 people attending for worship, eating and fellowship. What a turnout for the kick-off to VBS.

VBS this year was earlier than in previous years. Cody Alstat was our director and the average attendance of children was 60 and around 100 counting teachers and helpers. I want to thank those who took over for me during this time. Our theme this year was “Hometown Nazareth”.

June 2nd the Sisters of Strength met with their unbirthday party. Birthday gifts for the year were exchanged and a good time was had by all. We have started collecting food stuffs to be taken to the “Promise Mission” in Marion. They provide meals for the hungry and homeless and also hand out grocery bags when there are enough provisions. This is a great mission in progress.

Brother Curtis has continued teaching on Wednesday evenings on Free Will Baptist Doctrines. Right now he is on the attributes of God.

Kay Veller, Sandy Lintner, Alice Barron and Cody Alstat went to Camp Hope to deliver pudding cups and help with the meal on the 1st of July. What a joy to work and meet these children that attend camp. We did not see any that did not display good manners.

We welcome Brian, Angela and Greg Walker as new members of Harmony Church. We pray for Greg as he is ready to serve our God. Greg is just 17 yrs old and has informed the church that he has accepted the call to preach. Greg did just that on the evening of July 12th. He gave his first message on being bold and humble. Please remember Brother Greg in your prayers.

Harmony had a joint church service with the Whiteash Church on the evening of July 5th. There was great singing, song specials, testimony time and Brother Curtis preached the message. Thanks to Whiteash for inviting us.

July 7th, the Sisters of Strength met with 11 in attendance. Sister Sylvia Meyers gave the devotion on “Friends”. We can all attest to the importance of them. We continue to pray for many in the church that are sick.

We congratulate Kyle Ridlen and Autumn Grant who were married on June 27th. May God be with them as they start their lives together.

“And Jesus said unto them, ‘I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.’ ” - John 6:35

Pastor: Curtis Smith

Reporter: Alice Barron



GLOBAL TRAINING RESOURCES

Global Training Resources (www.globaltrainingresources.net) is a ministry of *Free Will Baptist International Missions*. It exists to facilitate the pooling and distribution of training materials from an Arminian perspective for interested Christian leaders, churches, and organizations around the world and is currently available in English, Portuguese, Spanish, French, and Russian. The management team is composed of: Kenneth Eagleton (chairman), Clint Morgan, Jerry Gibbs, Mick Donahue, Dale Bishop, and Lázaro Riesgo.

ARNOLD VIEW CHURCH – Rural Creal Springs

Average Sunday School attendance during June was 83. Some of our men put up the flags in Crab Orchard for Flag Day. Several members participated in the American Cancer Society Relay For Life at Marion. Our VBS project resulted in over 8,000 meals being provided to children.

Women Active for Christ meetings were held on June 17 and July 8. Elijah Doss and Kandace Jennings attended Jr. High Camp. Josh Jean attended Freshman-Sophomore Camp. Skye Mausey was our Primary Camper. Brandon and Bethany Dwyer and Diane Ryan worked at Primary Camp. Danny and Julie Beasley shared about their ministry in Ecuador on June 21.

We began a new Bible study called "What Keeps You Up at Night?" on Wednesday evenings. Our Men's Dinner was held on June 25. Helen Harris, 89, passed away on June 26. Brother Edward "Shorty" Alsip, 79, passed away on July 3. Condolences to these families. Brother Amado Gonzalez and Brother Jason Jean brought challenging messages on June 28. A dedication service for Asher Kai Gates was held on July 5. Asher's parents are Andy and Shalini Gates.

*"Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come,
that they may lay hold on eternal life." – I Timothy 6:19*

Pastor: Ivan Ryan

Reporter: Buddy Parks

THE ILLINI INITIATIVE – Champaign/Urbana

We are asked quite often about what happens during the summer when all the students leave. The summer is a really good ministry time for us. First, there are several international students who stay on campus because it is too expensive to fly back to their home countries for a couple of months. These students now have something we crave and that is more time. They are not as busy with tests, studying, and projects. This gives us more time to take students fishing, camping, and other personal activities. The summer also allows us to build a core group of students heading into the fall that will become the gravity of pull of other students to the English Corner and our activities. We become closer to these students in the summer because they are usually apart of everything we offer from conversation groups, to English Corner events to our own family activities.

Another major part of our summer activity is getting a head start on meeting new students. There are several international students groups who begin their studies here in June. We have been able to have some of their classmates who were here the previous year introduce us and be our go between with these new students. Getting a personal touch into these students' lives, in the first few weeks they are here, is a big deal. They usually feel comfortable with us and are excited to be a part of what we are doing for the rest of the school year.

We are so thankful for all of you who encourage us with your prayers, kind words, and support. We are in a win win situation for Sundays. If we are here in Champaign we get to take students, like Marchy from Taiwan, to church with us. If we are in your church for a Sunday we get to share about what God is doing in these international student lives. If you would like to contact us about being at your church for a Sunday or Wednesday my email is tylerpenn@comast.net or by phone is (217) 521-7984. Thank You for all you do for our family and ministry.

Tyler Penn – Minister to International Students

HAZEL DELL CHURCH – Rural Sesser

Wishing all of you a happy and safe summer. Each year we collect school supplies for our first year college students, as well as, for children in the Sesser-Valier school district, whose families need assistance in purchasing necessary items to start school. We will be collecting items through August 2nd. Thank you to all who contribute to this project. We have concluded the medicine bottle project at this time. Special thanks to Sister Helen Galloway for her many hours of service on behalf of this project. The WAC and Men's Prayer Breakfast groups met for their regular monthly meetings on July 5th.

Our VBS was held July 13th -17th. Thank you to all who volunteered in any way to make this a success! Praying for the Lord to use the lessons learned to help the precious young people in making decisions to follow Him!

We extend our sympathy to the family of Danny Galloway. Brother Danny passed away Monday, July 6th. Please keep his family in your prayers during this difficult time.

We request your prayers for the following from our church who have needs at this time: Danny Cockrum, Nancy Drake, Bonnie Ezell, Gearld Hamilton, Donna Harrison, Josh Hicks, Brian Lewis, Frances McNeil, and Sharon Sample.

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." Ephesians 6: 10-11

Pastor: Eric Drake

Reporter: Diana Kirk

FIRST CHURCH - Benton

Summer is here and with a vengeance. The Lord gave us the season - this is just one of them and it too will pass to a cooler time. We continue to do what we always do such as collecting food for the Ministerial Food Pantry. This month we will be giving them boxes of cereal. Tuesday is the day for someone from our church to help make sandwiches for the lunches packed for children every day at the Food Pantry.

Our children church works constantly to gather articles for the Operation Christmas Child boxes. They have half their quota filled. Women Active for Christ will have a rummage sale on August 8 to help raise money for their semi-annual donation. We are proud of our young people. Dara MacDonald and the other young ladies in her group brought home many top awards from their National Competition in the Dells, Wisconsin. Delaney Leffler was a delightful rag doll come to life in Mary Poppins and Zeb played a saxophone in the orchestra.

It seems like our prayer list grows and we ask for prayers for the Cooks, Gostowskis, Dan Leffler, Steve Dunford, Charles Dunford, Westen Riley, Sarah Malone, Georgianne Miller, The mothers of Ray MacDonald, Janice Page, Harold Combs, and Linda Erwin, our missionaries and very importantly pray without ceasing for our country.

Pastor: Kent Dunford

Reporter: Babbara Spencer

NEW HOPE CHURCH – Rural Ina

It has been a very busy spring/summer here at New Hope! In May our youth had a camp out complete with a wiener roast and water slide! There were around 35 youth and 10 adults. We also celebrated our graduates from kindergarten through college.

On May 8, Robert and McClain Lea welcomed Huck T.W. Lea into the world! Big sister Jersey is very proud! The Women's Auxiliary sponsored a cookout on May 17 raising money for missions.

We had our Homecoming the first Sunday in June. Brother Dink Phelps brought the message. After a wonderful noon meal we enjoyed special music from The Anderson's of Marion. Throughout the summer we have had kids attend camp. Some went to Camp Hope and some to Camp WeWoSeJe. Esther Smith has returned from a mission trip to Japan.

Michaela Smith will be leaving on a mission trip to Cuba in late July.

We had a very blessed Vacation Bible School in early July. Our theme was "G-Force". We studied about moving, acting, caring, following, and sharing the word of God! To extend this study New Hope will be having a "Back to School Supply Drive" on August 8 from 10:00-2:00. There will be free school supplies, fellowship and food! Our church picnic is planned for Sunday, July 19 at Rend Lake. We send our well wishes and prayers with Kryslyn Fowler as she leaves for boot camp in San Antonio, Texas on July 13. We have Bible Study each Wednesday at 7:00 with Brother David McLarin. As you can see New Hope has been a whirlwind of activity! As Brother Craig says, "God is good, all the time!" As summer nears the end, we pray for all those traveling, kids young and old getting ready to go back to school, our country and all of those in need.

Pastor: Craig Smith

Reporter: Tonyia Neal

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Tim York
Evangelist

Free Will Baptist Camp Meetings

September 13 - 16

Camp Hope – Ewing, Illinois

Special Music - Great Preaching