



Illinois Free Will Baptist

July 2015

Newsletter

**Adult Camp Meeting September 13-16 at Camp Hope
National Moderator: Brother Tim York of Nashville, Tennessee - Evangelist**

PITTSBURG CHURCH – Pittsburg

“He told them: ‘The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few.

Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest.’” – Luke 10:2

That is our prayer here at PFWBC that the Lord would send more workers out into the harvest. Until the Lord comes back to set up His Kingdom on this earth there will never be a shortage of work that needs done. There will always be poor, hungry, destitute, orphaned, rejected, forgotten people around the world that need to see the Hope that we, as His children, have to offer.

Each Church Closet before we open the doors at 7am for the “world” to come in, we pray. We pray that all of those who cross over the threshold of Our Father’s House would see Jesus in us and desire to know Him personally because of what they have seen and felt. In order for them to see Him, they have to see people-workers. It takes so many willing hands and hearts from start to finish to make the Giveaway smooth and God answered our prayer by sending His workers into the harvest. So thankful that He did. We had 400 people in the first 5 minutes, some who had been standing in line for at least a couple of hours before we opened the doors. By the time the day was over we had 700 total. *“The harvest is abundant...”*

Our Youth Group headed the call to go out *into the harvest* to help organize and hold a VBS for a new church plant located in Nashville, TN. It is part of the mission of Power Plant (P2). They left out on Saturday, June 13th and came back on Friday, June 19th. So blessed the Youth of our church love to serve. They look for opportunities constantly to be a part of things that are bigger than themselves. They are always willing to go into the harvest, no matter where and when.

As we are sure you are, we are in crunch time gearing up for VBS, another big place for “the harvest”. This year we will be doing Camp Kilimanjaro-a study through Proverbs. This is one of the biggest opportunities we get each year to reach the youth of our community. The kid’s involvement in church usually results in the parent’s involvement at some point. The kids a lot of times become the very workers Jesus was talking about in Luke 10:2. How fitting! Have a blessed summer!

Pastor: Eddie Donelson

Reporter: Christina Wilcox

ARNOLD VIEW CHURCH – Rural Creal Springs

Average Sunday School attendance during May was 81. Each mother received a gift on Mother's Day. A birthday party for Colene Doss was held at our church on May 16. Homecoming Day was on May 17. Brother James Sanders brought a challenging message. After a delicious meal, we were blessed by One Voice. Arnold View was founded in 1916.

Fern Grey, 86, passed away on May 16. John Doss, 80, passed away on May 22. Carolyn Parks, 72, died on May 24. Condolences to these families.

Sarah Malone shared about her work with ELIC on May 24. Congratulations to our recent graduates: Allana Chamness and Reagan Kibodeaux (K); Josh Jean, Brooklyn Jennings and Tyler Loyd (8th Grade); Sarah Jean, Taylor Reynolds and Jodie Treat (Crab Orchard High School); Brandon Boester (Murray State) and Stephanie Shadley (SIU); and Trisha Faulkner (RN). Our 5th Sunday evening song service on May 31 was a blessing. Leah Marie Loyd was born to Alex and Brooke on May 26. Congrats to Sean and Jamie Mausey on the birth of Lilith Annabelle Mausey on June 5. VBS was held on June 8-12. "Camp Kilimanjaro" was the theme.

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding." - Proverbs 3:5

Pastor: Ivan Ryan

Reporter: Buddy Parks

BETHEL CHURCH – South Roxana

Note: Along with the news article from Bethel Church, we also received these notices to publish.

Bethel Christian Academy, which is based at Bethel Church, is hiring for the Principal's position for the 2015-2016 school year. Applicants should have a Bachelors degree (minimum), preferably in Christian Education / Administration or comparable field. Please send resume to Bethel Christian Academy; 1417 Herbert Street; South Roxana, IL 62087 or Contact Don Federle dfederle@charter.net

Also, please note at the of this article that Brother Rick Han has resigned his position as pastor of Bethel Church.

God has been moving here at Bethel as one of our little ones, in Junior Church, and one of the adult, we have been praying for, accepted Christ this past month. There have also been two baptisms! On Mother's Day, May 10, we had Jason Jean come and speak for our church. May 15th Bethel had its graduation and concluded its year on May 20th.

Summer is always a slower time for our church since our school is out, but this does not mean that there has not been a bunch of stuff going on. On May 16th, we started meeting for our VBS. We are very excited about the theme and what God has planned. This year we will be doing "Everest: Conquering Challenges with God's Mighty Power." Just like the theme song says "With God, I will overcome." What an amazing promise!

May 22nd was busy with Caleb Ham's graduation from Navy boot camp. Thank you all for your prayers for him. He is doing great and is waiting to be shipped out to what he calls "A" school. Also on the 22nd through the 30th a group from our church went on an Alaskan Cruise. It was a great time of sight-seeing and spending time together. While the group was away, Josh Colson preached at Bethel on the 24th for both services. Tracy Nix, a Church planter in St. Louis, and his family shared their hearts with us here on May 31st. We enjoyed hearing about the passion he and his family have for those in the St. Louis area.

So far for the month of June, we have had a Graduation party for me as I have finished my master's level classes and am awaiting a student teaching placement and we have also had our Graduation Recognition Sunday on June 7th. This year we were able to recognize a total of 13 students from Kindergarten all the way through Masters! That evening we had our Sunday school and Church Picnic which is always a lot of fun.

The pastor has just finished a two part series on the "Four Blood Moons" which were excellent. We have also just started to get into the swing of camp. Camps have started and our teens just came back all a buzz for what God is doing in their lives. Camp is always a highlight of the summer around here.

The last few days have been an emotional roller coaster for the Ham family. As of yesterday, June 14, Pastor Ricky Ham resigned from Bethel Free Will Baptist Church where we have served for the last 10 years. We love you all and thank you for your prayers as we begin a new chapter in our lives this August.

Pastor-Ricky Ham

Reporter-Becky Ham

FIRST CHURCH - BENTON

Praise God from whom all Blessings Flow! We may grumble about the every other day of rain, but let us remember those who have lost everything in the floods.

We were fortunate to have Tyler Penn with us in May. He gave us an insight of what he and his family are accomplishing. So many young people from foreign countries are able to receive the gospel and share with the Penns in events that we take for granted. Pastor Dunford and Sister Tedra were able to attend the graduation of a grandchild in Henderson, NV. Robert and Janice Page welcomed a new granddaughter.

Brother Paul Bower spoke to us during Pastor's absence. Praise God for answered prayers. Tom Sanders was with on June 14. He is able to drive now and get out a little. Still remember in prayer little Westen who had to have pins in his leg after breaking it. He was able to be in church too and is riding in a wheel chair. We were blessed to have the Gospel Messengers bringing us the message in song as we celebrated our 44th Anniversary on June 14. Those young men have a terrific message for teenagers as well as adults. We continue to pray for the Cooks, Gostowskis, the mothers of Ray MacDonald, Harold Combs, Janice Page, and Linda Erwin, Georgianne Miller, Edith Taylor and Maxine Naylor. Perhaps you will join us in prayers for our country and the events that seem to multiply every day.

"Of all created comforts, God is the lender, you are the borrower, not the owner" - Samuel Rutherford

Pastor: Kent Dunford

Reporter: Barbara Spencer

OAK VALLEY CHURCH – Rural Geff

Greetings! We are keeping busy serving our Lord as we go into summer. We enjoyed a wonderful evening at our Mother-daughter banquet on May 22th. Our speaker was Melissa Garrison and "Precious Memories" our theme. Better than 50 enjoyed the evening with wonderful fellowship, food and memories.

Our annual Sunday School Picnic is June 7th at Sam Dale Park. This is a day of fun, food, and worship under the sun and invite visitors especially to join us. Our church takes Brownies to Camp Hope on June 10th, and we have several campers attending this summer. We pray that all have a good and life changing experience.

We are thankful for our services at Brookstone and Cisne Manor, and we help with the Geff Food Ministries each month. We are having a good study of I and II Thessalonians, by Beth Moore Sis. Valerie Brown leading us on Sunday Evenings. We hope everyone has a good summer and a safe one with your family.

"In everything give thanks for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." - II Thessalonians 5:18

Pastor: Richard Brown

Reporter: Marie Rutger

FIRST CHURCH – JOHNSTON CITY

We welcome Gary Gang into the family of God. He was saved at the end of a recent service. Congratulations are in order for Dylan Moore and Abigail Moore who graduated from SIU last month.

We kicked off JC Kids' Lunch Bunch May 30 with a huge kick-off celebration in our church parking lot. We had an inflatable bounce house and obstacle course as well as carnival games with prizes, face painting, and a photo booth. The most amazing thing about the day was the weather. Storms clouds gathered several times, but rolled on by all day long until just after the event ended and everything was put away; then the deluge came. At that point, we praised God to be inside, safe and dry.

Lunch Bunch summer meals began June 1 and continue through July 31. Every weekday, we serve lunch and provide activities for 80-100 children. Our record attendance so far has been 104 children plus adults. Lunch Bunch enjoys wonderful support from the community. We provide lunch for the public library's reading program on Wednesdays at the community center and have volunteers every day from several other churches in town. The program continues to grow and God has blessed our church through it. With help from Lunch Bunch donors, we purchased a commercial refrigerator and installed two new sinks in our kitchen so we could serve more children and their families.

Trevor Thomas ("Mr. Drama"), his wife Sawyer, and daughter Claire, presented a wonderful program of comedy, drama, and song in our morning worship, June 14. We enjoyed lunch together after the service.

Pastor: Keith Fletcher

Reporter: Reba Ritter

HAZEL DELL CHURCH – Rural Sesser

Hello from all of us at Hazel Dell. School is out and summer activities are in full swing. Praying for the decisions that may be made as our youth attend Camp Hope this summer. Congratulations to all of our graduates. They include: Anistyn Wangler- Kindergarten; Reid Basso, Bailee Drake, Eli Gunter Caleb Miller, Hannah Miller and Tyler Winchester-8th Grade; Johnathon Galloway, Brian Krominga and Kaleb Miller-High School; and Lisa Logsdon-John A. Logan College.

This has been the spring for weddings for families at Hazel Dell. Congratulations to Loryn Anderson and Todd Carpenter who were married on April 23rd. Loryn is the daughter of Cynthia Hamm and the granddaughter of Danny & Sharon Sample.

Congratulations to Paige Petro and Alex Owens who were married on May 23rd. Paige is the daughter of Mark & Gena Petro and the granddaughter of Danny & Sharon Sample.

Congratulations to Kayla Sample and Gowdy Cannon who were married on May 30th. Kayla is the daughter of Mike & Pat Sample.

Thank you to Ruth Ann McGlasson who taught 5 of our ladies the craft of making macramé lawn chairs on Saturday, June 13th. Monday, June 15th. was our day to help with the Food Pantry Pick-Up and Stocking. We helped with the food distribution on June 16th.

"Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong. Let all your things be done with charity." - I Corinthians 16:13-14

Pastor: Eric Drake

Reporter: Diana Kirk

BEAR POINT CHURCH – Rural Sesser

Greetings from Bear Point. Seth Loucks, Alana Hicks and Lauren Mygatt had photo entries for state CTS competition. They all received a first rating but Lauren's photo essay goes on to the national level. We are very proud of all our youth.

Linda Cook attended the IL State WAC meeting held May 2 at Pleasant View Church.

All of our mothers were honored with a gift on Mother's Day. Special recognition was given to Myrl Conner with the most family, Barbara Cook the oldest mother and Kelsey Szczeblewski the youngest mother.

Congratulations to our graduates: Brooklyn Hicks, Shaelyn Taylor and Wyatt Zettler from pre-school, Kynadi Kirk from kindergarten, Zane Reagan from Jr. High, Cala Confer and Sawyer Bauman from High School, Megan Newbury from Rend Lake College Nursing Program, and Emily Haskins Wilson, Matthew Crawford and Dane Eubanks from college.

Shelby Payne has started a Wednesday night "Solid Rock" youth service for 4th grade and up. We encourage all our youth to come and be a part of this opportunity to learn more about God.

Alana Hicks and Lauren Mygatt attended Leadership Training at Camp Hope led by Brother Judson Phenicie, June 4-6.

On June 7 Brother Shawn Mygatt shared about his upcoming trip to Mexico with Bridge Builders. Donations were given and he asked that we remember him and the group going in prayer.

Pastor: Larry Cook

Associate Pastor: Judson Phenicie

Reporter: Linda Cook

MAURINE EDWARDS LEE

Many of our older readers will remember Maurine Edwards. She was born June 23, 1930 and grew up in the Sesser area, was saved as a child and attended Hazel Dell Church. She graduated from Sesser High School then graduated from Free Will Baptist Bible College in 1952. She married George C. Lee in 1952 and served in the ministry with him in Nebraska, Tennessee, North Carolina and Georgia.

She devoted many years of service on the local, state and international level of FWB women's ministries. She wrote and edited for the FWB Sunday School Department. She will be remembered for her knowledge and understanding of the Bible shared in the wonderful Sunday School classes she taught, for her compassion for others, and for her gentle spirit.

Maurine is survived by her husband of 63 years, George C. Lee; their children: Melinda Caughron and her husband Ken, of Fremont; Mary Vaughn and her husband Bill, of Hendersonville TN; Tom Lee and his wife Hiller, of Raleigh NC; and Paul Lee of Goldsboro; and their grandsons Gabriel Lee, Eric Vaughn, and Chris Vaughn. She is also survived by her sister, Ruthann Hall, and sisters-in-law, Esther Edwards, Lora Holland, Nellie Yelverton, and Wanda Harrelson. In addition to her parents she was preceded in death by her brother, Don, and four sisters, Lois, Reba, Mary Lou and Rosemary.

In lieu of flowers the family requests donations in Maurine's memory to Welch College (3606 West End Avenue, Nashville TN 37205-9989) or The Gideons International (PO Box 10093, Goldsboro NC 27532).

Because of limited space in the Illinois Newsletter, the following letter concerning the sale of the Welch College Campus has been edited and cut. You may go online and get the full version:

Dear Friends of Welch College,

I am thrilled to report that the college has closed on the sale of its West End Avenue campus and is set to begin construction on its new campus site. The campus was purchased by Mike Ford Custom Builders, LLC, a custom home building company in Middle Tennessee that is well-known for its fine homes. The sale included all the campus property except Welch Library.

The new campus will be built on a 66-acre site in Gallatin, Tennessee, which the college acquired for \$3 million in 2008, and which was recently appraised at \$5.8 million. This property, a short 25-minute drive from downtown Nashville, is situated in a fast-growing suburban community in Sumner County. The site meets all the criteria the college set at the beginning of its land search. The new property is close to a limited access freeway, being less than a mile off State Route 386 (Vietnam Veterans Boulevard). It is near medical and educational resources and job opportunities for students, is surrounded by new housing developments, and is still in the Greater Nashville area.

Continued on Page 6...

BLUE POINT CHURCH – Rural Cisne

We recently welcomed twelve new members into our fellowship: Bill and Christal Lewis, David and Amanda Hutchcraft, Ritchie, Anita, Matthew, and Marissa Byars, Jordan Hosick, Jon and Ellie Hill, and Bethany Locke.

The Evangels from Welch College were recently with us for a Sunday evening service. They presented a series of dramatic presentations on forgiveness called “Seven Times Seventy”. Several families from the church served as host for the overnight guests.

The 7th & 8th Grade Sunday school class recently went to Flora and enjoyed a meal out together. They used their recent Sunday school offerings to purchase gifts for missionaries from our church. Shane and Joy Davison from France were in the states during the month of June. They were at Blue Point for three of the Sundays and stayed with a few different families.

Josh and Ashley Bennett and sons, church planters in Marana, Arizona, were also in town and Josh preached one Sunday morning at Blue Point. We received an offering for their account. On another Sunday Ryan Lewis, Executive Administrator of Free Will Baptists, brought the morning message.

Esther Smith from the New Hope Church shared with us on a Sunday evening about her upcoming E-TEAM mission trip to Japan. We received an offering for the E-TEAM ministry.

We had good crowds at our Vacation Bible School this summer. The theme was “Camp Kilimanjaro” and a beautiful backdrop was painted in the auditorium by Vicki Gifford. Brooke Byars parked a Polaris Ranger in the lobby for the safari theme. The week ended with a big family picnic with inflatables and food. Beth Bowen was the director of VBS. Two young men from our Junior Church were saved around this time.

We sent several Juniors and Seniors to their week of camp. One of our young men, Caleb Fox, got saved during the week. We also sent a good group to Junior High Camp. Those who have helped out so far include Brother Ernie Lewis, Kendal McGrew, Amelia Byars, Lyn Waller, Mike Conard, and Colin Waller. On a Tuesday several women went to the camp to help in the kitchen, taking cookies that had been provided by many in the church.

Congratulations to Jessica Hilliard and Andrew Pennington who were recently married. Brother Ernie performed the ceremony held in the outside area of the bride’s home. Many from Blue Point were able to attend. Jessica has been a part of Blue Point her whole life.

Pastor: Ernie Lewis

Reporter: Suzanne Lewis

FIRST CHURCH – Mount Vernon

Our month began with our church celebrating its 85th birthday. Homecoming Day was June 8 and featured the Jean Family singing during the Sunday School hour and Brother Josh Colson preaching during the morning service. We have a good crowd and good fellowship with some folks we hadn’t seen for a while. Of course, the ladies provided a wonderful dinner during the noon hour.

Several of our young people are attending the various camps this summer and our church supplied cakes and pies for them on a Thursday. On Sunday evenings, after our services, some ladies have prepared fellowship meals for those who wish to stay and visit for a while after church. They will be not be doing this during July and August.

We have four people who will be having surgery within a two week period, plus several others who have spent time in the hospital. Pray for our church as we have several members who are not doing well.

Esther Smith, 2015 E-Team member gave a presentation at our church on a recent Sunday morning. Rachel Schweitzer, the granddaughter of Esther Edwards, was with us on another Sunday morning to report on her mission work in China during the past year.

The church gave both of these young ladies an offering to help with their expenses. Two of Brother David’s and Sister Pat’s grandchildren just returned for the African nation of Uganda where they spent some time in face to face evangelism. It is so refreshing to see young people responding to the gospel and God’s calling in their lives.

We welcome Barb Smith into our fellowship and we ask you to please pray with us as we pray for revival for our church, our nation and for individuals.

“Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?” – Psalm 85:6

Pastor: David Shores

Youth Minister: Phillip Kennedy

Reporter: Donnie Shurtz

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Note to Reporters: The deadline for articles to be published in the August edition of the Illinois Newsletter is July 15.
Please send all articles to: David Shores . 25 Edgewood Road . Mt. Vernon, Illinois 62864 or e-mail to: davids@mvfreewillbaptist.org

Letter continued from Page 4...

Our capital campaign to raise needed funds for campus construction is entitled *Building on the Legacy*. In a silent phase to the *Building on the Legacy* campaign, we have already raised \$2.1 million in pledges (\$1.6 million of which has already been received). We need to raise an additional \$5.4 million in cash and gifts-in-kind (\$3.4 million in five-year pledges and \$2 million in gifts-in-kind of materials, labor, fixtures, etc.) These funds, together with those raised from the sale of the West End campus and cash reserves, will pay for the \$20 million-plus construction of the new campus. We are calling on friends of the college to invest in this campaign, which will be a once-in-a-lifetime investment in the kingdom mission of Welch College.

We will be unveiling more about the new campus and the *Building on the Legacy* campaign at the annual meeting of the National Association of Free Will Baptists in Grand Rapids, MI, this month. We also invite everyone to a groundbreaking ceremony on the new campus site, which we will host Tuesday, July 14, at 10:00 a.m. Details can be found at Buildingonthelegacy.org.

Please be in prayer for Welch College as we embark on the most important transition in the history of our beloved institution. Pray that God will provide the needed funds for this endeavor, and pray about your involvement in this historic event of the relocation and construction of a new campus for Welch College, for the glory of God and the extension of His kingdom.

Sincerely,
J. Matthew Pinson, President

Pray for the National Association of Free Will Baptists as they meet at Grand Rapids, Michigan – July 19-22