

# Illinois Free Will Baptist Newsletter

July 2016

**2016 FREE WILL BAPTIST  
CAMP MEETING  
AUGUST 7-10  
CAMP HOPE – EWING, ILLINOIS  
6:30 Each Evening  
Evangelist: Jeff Jones  
Pastor: Hilltop Free Will Baptist Church  
Fuquay Varina, North Carolina**



## THE BRIDGE CHURCH - GREATER THINGS TO COME

In John 1:43 – 51 is the story of Nathanael. When Nathanael meets Jesus, Jesus already knew who he was and Nathanael was totally shocked. The verse that really pops out is verse 50. John 1:50 *Jesus answered and said unto him, Because I said unto thee, I saw thee under the fig tree, believest thou? thou shalt see greater things than these.*

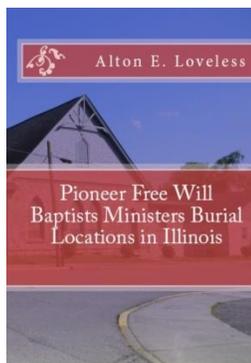
In other words, Jesus was saying, “You were pretty impressed by me knowing who you were...just wait, there are greater things to come.” We can read the many miracles that took place that were the greater things to come. God is doing some amazing things right now in our life that has given great affirmation, but I believe there are greater things to come.

On June 5 we were with Cross Creek FWB Church in Mississippi. After spending some time with the adult Sunday school class a young lady approached me with a picture of a gentleman on her phone. She asked, “You see this man? I have been telling him about Jesus for a while. However, he moved. He moved to Champaign. He is a manager of an apartment building. When you said you were planting a church in Champaign, I started crying.” Take note, a friend from Texas knows someone in Champaign who doesn’t know Christ either. Both these stories are evident we are going in the right direction. This is just the beginning of our calling to Champaign and as God has affirmed our calling, there are greater things to come!

Please continue to pray for us. June was a really busy month. We visited the hospital four times with one broken arm (Caleb), tonsils removed (Heather and Peyton), and tubes placed in ears (Jaden).

Note To the Pastors: If you have an available Sunday for me to share our new Illinois Ministry please contact me at [618-204-0294](tel:618-204-0294). Or if you are going to be gone and you need someone to fill in for you, please feel free to contact me for that opportunity as well! I still have a few Sundays in August, September, October, November that are open, as well as the beginning of 2016.

To Him Who Is Able, Jamie and Heather Lee



This new book by Alton Loveless, “**Illinois Pioneer Free Will Baptists Ministers Burial Locations in Illinois**” is taken from the two-volume set of more than 2600 Free Will Baptists across the nation a continuing project that has been ongoing for 10 years.

Because of the size and expense the author has prepared an addition of each major state at an inexpensive edition.

The book can be ordered from FWB publications at [Alton.loveless@prodigy.net](mailto:Alton.loveless@prodigy.net) or from Amazon using this ISBN 978-1523648375

## **BLUE POINT CHURCH – Rural Cisne**

We had good crowds at our annual Vacation Bible School. This year's theme was "Cave Quest – Following Jesus". Many thanks go to Vicki Gifford and Brooke Byars for the wonderful decorations throughout the church. We also appreciate Beth Bowen for once again directing.

We sent three workers and three campers to Junior-Senior Camp at Camp Hope. While Brother Ernie was at camp, missing a Sunday evening service, Bryan Peters filled the pulpit. We also sent four campers and eight workers and four campers to Junior High Camp. Hope Walker is once again the S.A.M. worker for the summer.

Jon Hill went to Welch College for his E-TEAM training and then departed for France. The main ministry of his team will be musical performances.

One day at camp we sent cookies for all the campers. Joyce Kingsbury continued her yearly tradition of making a variety of pies and special desserts for all the workers.

**Pastor: Ernie Lewis**

**Reporter: Suzanne Lewis**

## **RESCUE CHURCH – Rural Whittington**

May was a very busy month for Rescue church as I'm sure it was for everyone else also. Three of our members attended the Illinois WAC Association meeting at New Hope Church on May 7th. They were Anne Sink, Jane Harmon, and Jane Baine. For Mother's Day each Mother present was given a flower and some Candy.

The annual Master's Men Fishing Tournament was held at Camp Hope on May 14<sup>th</sup> and Brother Bryant's two fine boys, Samuel and Benjamin Harris, took 1<sup>st</sup> place this year. This has been a great year for the tournament and there was one entry that drove 3 1/2 hours to take part in the activities.

We've had Tuesday School Graduation. Ms. Rita would to say "Thank You" to everyone. It could not be without all your help. And a special "Thanks" to Ms. Rita who is a very special lady!

On Wednesday nights we have started a new lesson being taught by Dalton Acosta called "Is There A God?" It's designed for you to ask questions and for you to hopefully get the answers you're looking for. Also Justin (Pokey) and Melinda Squires and leading our new youth group on Wednesday night at 6:30 p.m.. Our other Graduates were: Tommi Poe - Benton High School, Gage Harmon and Jaedyn Shelton - Ewing 8<sup>th</sup> Grade. Both Jaedyn Shelton and Gage Harmon received the American Legion Award for their class.

May 22, was our 116<sup>th</sup> Homecoming at Rescue. Brother Jason Jean and his beautiful family filled the church with songs of praise and worship, and a powerful message from God. A good time was had by all who attended. The church held a wiener roast on the new church property on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Everyone stayed until dark just in good fellowship and playing games. It's become a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday tradition. Vacation Bible School for Rescue Church is scheduled for July 24-29.

*"What an awesome God we serve."*

**Pastor: Bryant Harris**

**Reporter: Donna Harmon**

## **HERTIAGE CHURCH – Springfield**

What a wondrously busy time at our small beacon of light to 6th world in Springfield, Illinois. Our youth are always busy with Christian fellowship with their peers, Sunday morning Children's Moment, their young voices singing to the glory of God, Wednesday night service and Sunday Evening Vespers. The youth also clean the church and the educational building under the supervision of the adults.

Our mortgage has been paid off, Thanks be to God!

The adults are studying during Bible study and after church service with much praise to the Lord and inspired sermons by Pastor Leonard.

*"As for me, behold, my covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations." – Genesis 17:4*

**Pastor: Marcellus Leonard**

**Reporter: Marilyn Guthrie**

## **FIRST CHURCH - Benton**

God sends seasons as we need them! Events move along here at Benton First. Jamie Lee and family moved in on May 16. We're happy to see a family in the parsonage again. Pray for them as they do their itinerate work. Their first few weeks have really been hectic. Heather had to have a tonsillectomy and since then all 3 youngsters have had medical procedures, one has a broken arm from play in the park, another got tubes in his ears, and the third had to have a tonsillectomy. Pastor Kent and Tedra visited her son in Nevada for his birthday, and Jamie preached both Sunday services and Wednesday night while they were gone. There was an Anniversary/Birthday supper that night and folks were able to spend a little time with them.

Graduates were honored on May 22. Dara MacDonald graduated Ewing grade school and will attend Benton High School where she will be on the Ranger Team. Matt Williams, one of our Wednesday night young people graduated Benton High School and will be attending SIU and taking part in track. We received two new members, Harry and Kay Lawrence. May 12 marked the 45th anniversary of Benton First Free Will Baptist Church. We had special guests, The Victory Boys who brought a wonderful message in music. There was a lot of spirit, and a heart warming altar call as the father of twin boys who attend with their grandmother accepted the Lord. After services, a young lady went forth to talk with Brother Kent. A very special meal followed and we learned of another couple who will join us soon. We ask for prayers for Elloise Sullivan, Tim Sanders, the Cooks, Virginia Gostowski, Ed Simpson, Allen Price, the Lee Family, and others with medical or spiritual problems. Let us not forget our soldiers in harm's way. We must pray that God, who is in control, helps our country.

**Pastor: Kent Dunford**

**Reporter: Barbara Spencer**

## **ARNOLD VIEW CHURCH – Rural Creal Springs**

Average Sunday School attendance during May was 84. The morning worship average was 144. George and Cathy Kirkpatrick joined our church on May 1. Bret Henry, 43, passed away on May 5. Condolences to his family. Homecoming was observed on May 15. There was special music by members of our congregation and choir. Brother Gene Parton brought the message. Arnold View is celebrating 100 years of ministry. Josh Colson began his summer internship. We began a look at "Christianity Explored" on Wednesday evenings. Boone Morris made a public profession of faith and was baptized on May 22. Brother Josh Colson has been preaching on Philippians on Sunday evenings. Our Relay For Life team had a baked goods fundraiser. The Women Active for Christ meeting was held on June 8. The Jones Fish Fry was held on June 10.

Congratulations to our recent graduates: Emma Damron, Kiley Graham, Marlie Loyd and Sidney Loyd (K); Kristen Chamness, Elijah Doss, Kandace Jennings and Jordan Turner (8th Grade); Colter Deaton and Billy Treat (Crab Orchard High School); Aaron Ferguson (Marion High School); Sarah Jean (JALC); and Kyle Zachritz (SIU).

*"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." - Philippians 4:13*

**Pastor: Ivan Ryan**

**Reporter: Buddy Parks**

## **HAZEL DELL CHURCH - Rural Sesser**

Congratulations to all of our graduates. Gauge Phillips graduated from Kindergarten. Our 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduates were Madlyn Bulla, Tanner Eubanks, Katelyn Galloway, Katerina LeVault, Sydney Lewis, Kaylee Phillips and Will Rea. High School graduates were Emily Bulla, Courtney Hood and Logan Miller. Issac Hicks graduated from SIU-Carbondale and Clayton Hoffard graduated from Rend Lake College. We pray for God's blessings upon all of these young people as they begin the next phase of their journey in life.

Congratulations to Kyle Miller and Kara Ann (Evans) Miller who were united in marriage on May 25<sup>th</sup>. Kyle is the son of Brother Rusty and Sister LeAnn Miller and the grandson of Brother Bob and Sister Donna Harrison.

The Peppy Calebs met at the church for a noon meal on Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup>.

The Men's prayer group met on Sunday, June 3 for their regular monthly meeting.

We want to give praise to the Lord for the good report that Brother Brian Lewis received from the doctors in Houston following his recent tests. *"I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth." - Psalm 34:1*

**Interim Pastor: Larry Clyatt**

**Reporter: Diana Kirk**

## PITTSBURG CHURCH - Pittsburg

VBS is fast approaching and we are getting ready to open the doors for as many as the Father would send our way! It is set for the week of July 25<sup>th</sup> thru the 29<sup>th</sup> from 6:15-8:30pm. This year's theme is Cave Quest: Following Jesus- the Light of the World. Keeping the kiddos attention for over 2 hours each night has to include FUN!! A high energy, fast paced week is what we are expecting. Praying for lives to be forever changed that week and the Holy Spirit to flood all in attendance.

The ground has been officially broken for the new road to be put in down the north side of the church in preparation for the new Sanctuary to be built. We will be undergoing construction for the majority of the remainder of the year.

Our Youth Group is in the middle of their annual mission trip at this writing. They have went to Power Plant (P2) again this year that works with new church plants to assist in reaching out to the community around them. They are in Nashville, TN and are hosting a VBS in an empty parking lot in the heart of Nashville. Last year when they did this, they had an overwhelming positive response from the kids in the area as well as the adults. Such a great opportunity for them to shine the light of Jesus! They are hoping to get to see some familiar faces while they are there and hear how the Father has been working in their lives. Praying for more names to be written into the Lamb's Book of Life.

Our Summer Son program is starting to wind down and come to a close. The last day is set for Thursday, July 21<sup>st</sup>. The kids will get to play with water balloons, have a pizza party and more! We have been averaging around 28-30 kids and 4 volunteers each day. It has flown by so fast!

A part of our church family has been undergoing a massive battle recently with the premature birth of their twins. Ethan and Lizzie Robinson had their baby boy Koen and baby girl Karver at 24 weeks. Both babies have been making good progress. They both have had to have some surgeries and procedures but are gaining weight and are allowed to be held by mom and dad which is huge! They have a long road ahead of them and would covet your prayers. They also have an older daughter, Korrey, who has had life flipped upside down as well. Please lift them up.

Pastor: Eddie Donelson

Pastor: Keith McDannel

Reporter: Christina Wilcox

## ONE NATION UNDER GOD

*"It cannot be emphasized too clearly and too often that this nation was founded, not by religionists, but by Christians; not by religion, but on the gospel of Jesus Christ."*

*~ Patrick Henry, 1765*

## ILLINI INITIATIVE – Champaign/Urbana

Summer is in full swing here in Champaign, Illinois. The weather is hot and the activities are many. We are doing more this summer than we ever have with international students. We have taken some fishing, some canoeing, and had some cookouts. We are also running summer conversation groups where we have nearly 50 signups for our groups.

It has been great having Daniel here. He is our summer intern from Welch College. We have already been able to have some good discussions about Jesus with some international students. Daniel is developing a good friendship with a student from China. We pray that this relationship will be fruitful spiritually.

Our family was able to be the missionaries at Camp Hope this summer for the teen weeks and we have really enjoyed our time there. Our kids love Camp Hope and all the attention they get there, especially Madden. I think Madden thinks he is a camper like the teens. We pray that we can inspire more of our teens to be active in the kingdom of God.

We are so grateful for Free Will Baptist friends and supporters and we hope we get the opportunity to see some of you this summer.

Tyler Penn Family

## HARMONY CHURCH – Rural West Frankfort

The warm days of summer are upon us! The clear skies and sunshine remind us to keep our hearts and minds focused on the Savior and His promises. Harmony Church celebrated Mother's Day on May 8th. A baptism service was held at Dick Smith's pond on May 22nd. Penny Blades and Lacy Rask received the baptism. We are eager to see what God has in store for these two very special ladies!

Harmony honored and paid tribute to our veterans during our morning service on May 29th. A memorial table was set up in the foyer to honor and remember those veterans who have passed on. (Thank you to Sister Alice Barron for decorating the table!) There were several generations displayed, even dating back to the Civil War. Brother Dick Cremer gave a special presentation that served as a reminder to us of the sacrifices our soldiers have made and continue to make for our freedoms in this great nation of ours. May we never take for granted, nor forget, what our forefathers sacrificed, what our soldiers continue to sacrifice, and most importantly the sacrifice our Savior, Jesus Christ, made so that we could be free.

Collection Day for the Manna Mission in Johnston City was also on May 29th. Thank you to all who continue to give abundantly to this ministry! Harmony also attended a joint service at New Hope Church on the evening of May 29th. On June 5th, Harmony Church held its 3rd annual Church in the Park service at West Frankfort City Park. We also celebrated our Birthday/Anniversary meal. Harmony recognized its graduates: Greg Walker, Callie Walker, Tyziah Walker, Dakota Ridlen, Toby Phillips, and Carissa Childers during the service. Congratulations to all of our graduates! We pray for God's guidance and protection as each one begins a new journey. The weather was beautiful and it was a wonderful time of preaching, worship and fellowship. We pray that seeds were planted and hearts and minds were changed. Please continue to pray for this outreach ministry.

Harmony held VBS this past week from 6/6 through 6/10. We had 146 in attendance for the commencement ceremony. Thank you to all those who helped and participated in any way. Thank you for your faithful service to our youth and to teaching the truth of Jesus Christ. We continue to pray for the young hearts that came out to learn about Jesus.

Our thoughts and prayers are with our sister Alice Barron and her family. Alice's sister, Bonnie Baum, went to be with the Lord this past week. May God continue to lift up and comfort them.

*“But let all those rejoice who put their trust in You; Let them ever shout for joy, because You defend them; Let those also who love Your name be joyful in You.” ~Psalm 5:11*

**Pastor: Curtis Smith**

**Reporter: Jennifer Cook**

## FIRST CHURCH – Mount Vernon

During the months of May and June we had several activities in which the folks of the church participated. Pat Shores and Cora Flota attended the State WNAC meeting at New Hope Church on May 7<sup>th</sup>, then the next day the church celebrated Mother's Day by recognizing all the mothers and presenting them with a small gift and a flower given out by some of the children.

On May 8<sup>th</sup>, Brother Jamie Lee spoke at our church, then the following Sunday night we hosted the, “To God Be The Glory Band”. This group of 18 musicians from all over southern Illinois blessed us with their beautiful songs. A Free Will Baptist brother from Virginia, Brother Mile Strouth, visits with us when his work calls him to our area. We had the privilege of hearing him preach on a Wednesday evening. Kylee Gibson, who grew up in our church paid us a wonderful visit when she came and spoke to us about her upcoming mission trip to Mexico sponsored by the church she now attends in Robinson, Illinois. Our May graduates included Tanaya Henson (Bethel Grade School), Damian Rose (Woodlawn Grade School) and Hope Kobbert (MA, McKendree University). Our congratulations to each of them.

One of the dear ladies in our church died on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Sister Bea Drennen was a wonderful lady and loved by everyone in the church. Please pray for her family. Also, pray for those who are sick, shut-in and elderly.

We celebrated the church's 86<sup>th</sup> birthday on June 5<sup>th</sup> with Brother Josh Colson preaching, music provided by Williamson Branch and a wonderful meal by the ladies of the church. It was a wonderful day of spiritual blessings!

*As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith”. – Galatians 6:10*

**Pastor: David Shores**

**Youth Minister: Phillip Kennedy**

**Reporter: Donnie Shurtz**

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Illinois State Association of Free Will Baptists  
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Bonnie, Illinois 62816-0001

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*Celebrate your Freedom on Independence Day - July 4th*

Reporters: Please send articles for the August Newsletter to David Shores: <[davids@mffreewillbaptist.org](mailto:davids@mffreewillbaptist.org)> by July 15

**The 2016 National Convention will be held July 17-20 at the Kansas City Convention Center.**



In July, Free Will Baptists will return to Kansas City, Missouri, for the fifth time in the convention's 80-year history. Settled at the junction of Interstates 70, 35, and 49, this Heartland city lies within a day's drive of most Free Will Baptist churches. Attendees can expect sunny July days and Midwestern friendliness in the largest city in Missouri. Speakers Ben Evans (MO), Wayne Miracle (GA), Cory Thompson (OK), Brad Ryan (IL), Richard Robinson (MO), and Marc Nepl (VA) will address the theme, "The Path to Revival" from 2 Chronicles 7:14. Those unable to attend the convention are encouraged to take advantage of online streaming at [www.nafwb.org](http://www.nafwb.org), courtesy of the Free Will Baptist Media Commission. The theme will also be emphasized by a prayer rally on Tuesday morning, when convention-goers will gather to ask God for revival

