



Illinois Free Will Baptist

November 2016

Newsletter

HAZEL DELL CHURCH - Rural Sesser

Blessings to you as we enter this wonderful time of year.

A fellowship meal was held following the morning services on September 18th. It was a good time of fellowship and food.

A special offering was received on September 25th to benefit the building projects at Camp Hope. A generous amount was received. Thank you to all who gave toward this special need.

The Men's Prayer Group met for breakfast on October 2nd.

Special Homecoming services were held on October 9th as we celebrated 102 years of ministry in the community. Former Pastor Glenn Poston was with us to deliver the message. He and Sarah live in Nashville, TN. It was a blessing to have them with us for a special day of worship, food and fellowship. The Peyton Sisters provided our special music for the day and what a testimony these two young girls gave. Thanks to all who contributed in making this a great day. Special thank you to those who volunteered to do the extra cleaning of the church. Also, thank you to Amy Galloway who decorated the fellowship hall.

"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" - Psalm 27:1

Interim Pastor: Larry Clyatt

Reporter: Diana Kirk

BLUE POINT CHURCH – Rural Cisne

Brother Ernie Lewis, Roger McGrew, and Dennis Gifford were able to attend the Master's Men Retreat at Camp Hope. Brother Ernie also attended the D6 Conference held in Louisville, Kentucky. Suzanne Lewis enjoyed the Saturday morning services at the Illinois Ladies Retreat at the camp. Heather Lee brought an inspiring message. Pleasant View hosted the East Central District quarterly meeting and Brother Ernie and Suzanne represented Blue Point.

Many of our folks attended the See You at the Pole rally at Cisne High School. Several of our teens took a part in this special service. Several of our teens also had lead roles in "The Sound of Music", a combined musical production of Cisne High School and Cisne Middle School. The Cisne High School volleyball team used "The Link" for a party to honor their senior players after their senior recognition game.

In October we held our annual trap shoot in which several participants fired a wide variety of guns. Later that evening we held our Annual Chili and Chowder supper. We celebrated our 119th Anniversary as a church with special Homecoming Services. The Victory Boys provided the special music. We also had a ladies group of Vicki Gifford, Connie McGrew, Beth Hilliard, Brooke Byars, and Kim Cook who sang. Caleb Gifford of the Bethel Church in South Roxana brought the morning message. The Link was full as a large crowd enjoyed a delicious potluck lunch.

On Columbus Day, Brother Ernie and Suzanne took the teens on their annual hiking trip to Garden of the Gods, Rim Rock, and Cave-in-Rock. The weather was beautiful and everyone enjoyed the day.

Congratulations to Andrew and Jessica Pennington on their birth of their first child, Bristol Jerin. She was born on Monday, October 10th in Mt. Vernon. Grandparents are Bob and Beth Hilliard and Lawrence and Sheri Pennington. Great-grandparents are Robert and Marjorie Hilliard of Blue Point.

We offer our sympathy to the family of John Forth, whose mother Margaret, recently passed away. We also extend sympathy to Beth Bowen's family in the death of her grandfather.

Pastor: Ernie Lewis

Reporter: Suzanne Lewis

ARNOLD VIEW CHURCH – Rural Creal Springs

Average Sunday School attendance during September was 95. Our church had a group at the FCA Night event at SIU. The Salukis defeated Southeast Missouri State, 30-22. Brother James Sanders brought a challenging message on September 11. Pastor Ivan Ryan brought the Homecoming message at Bakerville. The Women Active for Christ meeting was held on September 14. A baby shower for Jamie and Devon Owens was held on September 17. Jean Driver also taught a CPR Certification Class that day. Robert Gibbs, 67, passed away on September 18. He was a brother of Betty Beyers. Wade Hudgens, 65, passed away on September 21. Regan Thompson, Kennedy Thompson, Taylor Thompson and Skye Mausey were baptized and joined our church on October 2. There was also a baby dedication service that day for Maycee Jane Sanders, the daughter of James and Holly Sanders.

"Give thanks unto the Lord, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the people." - 1 Chronicles 16:8

Pastor: Ivan Ryan

Reporter: Buddy Parks

BEAR POINT CHURCH – Rural Sesser

Our youth hosted a pasta luncheon on September 18. Proceeds went to the Camp Hope Girl's Dorm project. Over \$1100.00 was raised. Thanks to Shawn and Samantha for heading this project.

Congratulations to Devin and Tippy Haraman who were married on October 1.

It was good to have Judson, Kayla and baby Jude with us in services on October 2. Brother Judson preached in the morning services.

Fried pies were made on October 7. Orders were filled and then some were taken to the Sesser October Fest and sold. Proceeds go to the youth to help with their projects. Thanks to all who helped with this project.

Prayers for the family of Randy and Jane Eubanks. Jane's mother Velma Gower passed away on September 29.

Larry wants to thank all for your prayers, cards, calls and visits during his recent surgery. He is doing good and on the mend.

Pastor: Larry Cook

Reporter: Linda Cook

PITTSBURG CHURCH – Pittsburg

October was SO busy around PFWBC!! There were lots of ways to honor our Pastors and their families for Pastor Appreciation. Our 109th Homecoming on Sunday, October 2nd was over the top too! Pastor Curtis Smith brought us our morning message and our fellowship meal was so delicious. Our evening services were dismissed to allow time with family. Such a great day of worshipping the Father and fellowshiping with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

October 9th was a very busy day too...Our Family Fall Festival was held at Bandy's Pumpkin Patch immediately after morning services. Hot dogs, chili, desserts, hayrides, play barn, corn maze...should I say more! Another chance for fellowship and the weather was so great! During our PM service the PFWBC Choir performed a tribute to Fanny Crosby. It was very well put together and you could tell they worked very hard. (The rest of the details for October will be given in the December letter)

If you have driven by the church lately you have noticed lots of changes. As of now, the outside steel supports have been set in place and the building is taking shape! All the concrete for the building is finished as well. Praying for the weather to cooperate so construction can continue on schedule.

We are in the last stages of preparing for our upcoming Church Closet Giveaway. It is scheduled for Saturday, November 5th from 7am to noon. We are giving away clothing for the whole family, furniture, household items, toys, and more. If you know someone in the area who could benefit from this outreach, please send them our way.

Lastly, we are all praying for our country and that God's people would turn their faces back to Him so our land can be healed. Pray for the upcoming election, our troops, America's families, and our future.

"If My people, which are called by My name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14

Pastor: Eddie Donelson

Pastor: Keith McDannel

Reporter: Christina Wilcox

BAKERVILLE CHURCH – Rural Bonnie

Bakerville FWBC would love to brag on our Junior Church for just a moment. After their fundraising efforts they raised all the money needed to be able to have their day of fun outing. They went to X Factor in Harrisburg, Illinois and did a lot of jumping and jumping and jumping and had a fabulous time. They brought back a great video and shared with everyone at church. They are great group of kids.

We celebrated our annual Homecoming on September 11th and had a great service. We welcomed back Ivan Ryan as our guest speaker to bring a wonderful message for all who attended. Our music service was provided by a few of our own church members and The Jason Jean Family. A great service was enjoyed by all who attended.

Pastor: David Mishler

Reporter: Tammy Hendricks

HARMONY CHURCH – Rural West Frankfort

As the leaves begin to fall and cooler winds blow in, it is a reminder that God continually prepares us for different seasons in our lives, seasons of renewal, growth, and harvest.

On September 18th, Brother Dennis Gwizdala brought the evening worship service. Our birthday/anniversary meal was held after the service. A wonderful evening of praise and worship and fellowship! September 25th was collection day for the Manna Mission in Johnston City. We are very thankful for their ministry and service to the community.

On Tuesday, October 4th, Sister Malinda Edgell shared her trip to Israel and her experiences there with us. It was such a powerful and humbling evening as she took us through her journey. The visual reality of seeing the places where Jesus walked, where He ministered, where He suffered, where He was crucified, was a very profound experience. Thank you Sister Malinda for sharing your physical and spiritual journey to the Holy Land!

Sunday, October 9th, Harmony Church held its Church in the Park service at West Frankfort Park. It was a perfect day to shine God's truth and light into the community! The Holy Spirit was moving throughout the service. May we all heed the calling of our Precious Savior as He woos us to come into His presence, to kneel before Him in worship, to lift our voices in praise to Him, and to step into His loving embrace. Praise the LORD for He is worthy of all praise! We also celebrated Pastor Appreciation month. We are very thankful God led Brother Curtis to shepherd this body of believers. We appreciate his dedication to serving God and his faithfulness in proclaiming His truths. We love and appreciate you both, Brother Curtis and Sister Emilee! Thank you for shining your light so brightly!

On October 15th, Harmony Church will have its annual Harvest Festival at 5:30pm. The South Central Quarterly Meeting will be held at Harmony Church on Saturday, October 22, beginning at 9:00 am. Also on October 22nd, our young adults will be attending a Big Daddy Weave concert that evening. Please pray for these upcoming events that God will move in a mighty way and we will continue to draw closer to Him.

“But from there you will seek the Lord your God, and you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul.” - Deuteronomy 4:29

Pastor: Curtis Smith

Reporter: Jennifer Cook

Letters to the Ed:

The IL M.M. Regional Retreat was great again this year. Chad Kivette did a great job and also brought nine men from his church, I hope to see them again in 2017. It is the same for me every year, when the retreat is over I start looking forward to the next year's retreat. It is some of the best days of the year for me!

Thanks to Rescue, First Church Mt Vernon, Oak Valley and Nason Churches for letting me share with them about Welch College. As Free Will Baptist we are truly blessed to have a great college and the people that support it.

Roger Bennett, *Welch College Regional Representative.*

Brother George C Lee is moving from North Carolina to Tennessee and wants to sell some of his rare Free Will Baptist books. If interested, you may contact him at : glee63@nc.rr.com

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THE BRIDGE CHURCH - Champaign

LET CHRIST BE THE DRAW: I am reading a book called “Parables” and I came across this statement –
“No matter how many heads were counted, we know that Jesus drew massive throngs of people, all pressing to get as close to Jesus as possible.”

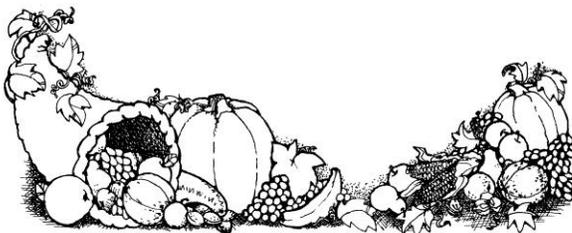
Luke 8:4 And when much people were gathered together, and were come to him out of every city, he spake by a parable. Jesus drew people to Him. He was the draw of people. The thought came to me - if Jesus drew people and He lives inside of me, how do I draw people to Him? I don't have enough room to expound, but just consider the question and the following thought:

Draw people through love. Draw people through grace. Draw people through example of change. Draw people through truth...All through Jesus - not of ourselves.

John 1:17 it says, “but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.”

In other words, Jesus was full of grace and truth – He lives inside of us, we have the same flowing and working in us. People are not drawn to you or me, they are drawn to Jesus! Be the light!

To Him Who Is Able,
Jamie and Heather Lee



*Happy
Thanksgiving!*

