



Illinois Free Will Baptist

April 2017

Newsletter

REPORT: 2017 STATE ASSOCIATIONAL MEETING

Moderator Curtis Smith guided the delegates through a series of State Board Reports as well as reports from several National Representatives. The treasurer, Tim Hayes reported that our designated giving had increased in 2016 to \$232,173.79 plus an additional \$128,211.21 forwarded on to our National Ministries.

The Executive Board report received an A+ rating from the Auditing Committee showing that all board financial reports were correct and in order. Allocations for the 2017 Together Way Plan remained the same as the previous year:

National Association	24%	CTS Board.....	3%
Illinois State Missions.....	28%	Christian Education Board.....	3%
Promotional Fund.....	12%	Disaster Response Unit.....	0%
General Fund.....	17%	Master's Men Board.....	2%
Camp Board.....	10%	Ministerial Scholarship Fund.....	1%

The CTS Board reported a total of 46 young people competed in the National Youth Conference and Illinois had 16 winners. The Camp Board informed the delegates that our 2016 Camps had a total of 382 campers. It was also noted that Camp Hope is in need of \$35,000 for improvements and maintenance.

The moderator appointed a committee to study the feasibility of hiring an Associational Missionary for our state, and appointed a Nominating Committee for next year, and the delegates accepted the invitation from the Peace Church to host the State Meeting in 2018. The Moderator is to appoint delegates to the National Convention in Louisville.

We heard from national department representatives: International Missions, Home Missions, Master's Men, Board of Retirement, Welch College, the Executive Office, and Free Will Baptist Family Ministries.

Delegates tabled a resolution from the Business Committee to print all scriptures along with their references in our State Constitution and By-Laws. This will be taken from the table for consideration at our next session.

The following officers were elected for 2017-2018: Moderator: Curtis Smith, Assistant Moderator: Tyler Penn, Clerk: Larry Cook, Assistant Clerk: Jason Janus and Treasurer: Tim Hayes.

Four preachers blessed us with their timely, Bible centered messages: Brad Ryan, Curtis Smith, Steven Cantrell and Dr. Edward Moody.

Our appreciation to the preachers, singers, officers and others who made this meeting enjoyable. Special thanks to Pastor Kent Dunford and the people of the Benton Church for their gracious hospitality.

You will soon be given a complete set of minutes of this 2017 State Meeting when they are printed.

FIRST CHURCH - Benton

The calendar says spring soon! Let's hope so and that everyone gets over the colds or whatever. Pastor and Tedra Dunford along with Gail and Barbara Spencer, and Jerry and Margaret Legendre attended the South Central Quarterly meeting in January. Pastor Dunford had surgery a few weeks ago and has had no complications. On the last Sunday in February there was a participation night and many members of the church "did their thing". We had vocal solos, musical numbers, readings, and poetry. Some want to repeat this again on another Sunday night. The TAFL group meets every Wednesday night with Alisa Leffler. The Children's Church with Marci MacDonald are already packing boxes for this year's Operation Christmas Child.

Even though a lot of prayers get answered, it seems like our prayer list grows every day. Please remember to pray for Mary Cook, Edith Taylor, Brother and Sister Lawrence, the families that Brother Marty sees, and all the ones you have on your own lists.

The Illinois State Association annual meeting was held at Benton First and it was an enlightening time with very special speakers. Good to see old friends that you only see once a year. The decorations were lovely, and all agreed Mike Thomas' barbecue was extra good. God's blessings on you all.

Pastor: Kent Dunford

Reporter: Barbara Spencer



2017 CALENDAR OF STATE EVENTS

April 3-26: 20 Days of Prayer for Champaign, Illinois (The Bridge Church and the Illini Initiative)

April 24-26: RHMA Conference at Morton, Illinois. Pastor's registration fees paid by C.E. Board

April 28-29: CTS Competitive Activities at Ina Church

April 30: World Missions Offering for International Missions

May 1: State Executive Board meets at Mt. Vernon Church

May 6: Illinois Women for Christ State Meeting at Bear Point Church –Speakers: Shane and Joy Davison

May 13: 4th Annual Youth Fishing Tournament (ages 13 and under) at Camp Hope

Youth Camp Schedule:

June 1-3: Leadership Camp

June 4-9: Junior High Camp

June 11-16: Junior/Senior High Camp

June 18-23: Freshman/Sophomore Camp

June 25-30: Junior Camp

July 2-6: Primary Camp

July 16-19: National Association meets at Louisville, Kentucky

September 10-13: Illinois State Camp Meeting – Speaker: Kerry Steedley

September 14-16: Master's Men Retreat at Camp Hope – Speaker: Brandon Bell

HARMONY CHURCH – Rural West Frankfort

As spring draws near I can see evidence of new life springing up out of its long slumber. It is truly glorious to see God's handiwork blossoming all around. Just as creation reveals new life, Jesus Christ gives us new life!

On March 4th, Grange Hall FWC hosted the annual Sisters in Spirit Ladies Seminar. It was a wonderful day of fellowship, worship, and teaching. What a blessing to have over 200 women from over 60 different churches come together to praise, fellowship, teach, and serve one another in love and unity! Every moment, from the songs chosen in worship, the teachings, to the drama skit, was woven together to deliver a powerful message of drawing closer to our Lord, standing firm in the victory He has given us and believing in His promises.

On Sunday, March 5th, the congregation voted in favor of Brother Curtis Smith becoming the full-time pastor for Harmony Church. Brother Curtis and Sister Emilee are devoted servants of Christ, dedicated to sharing God's love and truth, and we are thankful God has led them to shepherd Harmony Church. We are very thankful for you both, Brother Curtis and Sister Emilee (and Titus!).

On March 7th Harmony held its monthly Sisters of Strength and Masters Men meeting.

On March 18th, Harmony hosted a spaghetti dinner to raise money for the CTS competition our youth are participating in. Thanks to those who support our youth and their desire to serve the Lord!

On March 19th, the Victory Boys were with us during our morning worship service. It was a special time of worship and praise!

In the next couple of weeks, Harmony will begin a new ministry. We are starting a nursery so that parents, grandparents, new visitors, etc., will have the freedom to participate in worship service. There will be a monitor screen in the nursery so the volunteers can also participate in the service. Please pray for this new endeavor that it will be a blessing to those we are serving.

Harmony Church has several events coming up in the near future. On April 8th we will be participating in the Walk for Life which will take place at 8am at the Carbondale Mall. On April 13th, we will be having a youth rally. Brother Tim Parton will be bringing the worship service and Sister Melinda Edgell will bring a devotional. We are thankful for all those who are working behind the scenes to make this a special night for our youth. Please pray for these upcoming events, that God will work in the hearts of those whom we will serve.

April 16th is Resurrection Sunday and Harmony will be having a Sunrise service at 6:30 am, followed by breakfast at 8:00 am (provided by the Masters Men Ministry) and regular services following. It will be a special time of praise, worship and thankfulness to our Lord Jesus Christ who died for our sin but defeated death and rose again so that we could be free! *“But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” - Romans 5:8*

Pastor: Curtis Smith

Reporter: Jennifer Cook

PITTSBURG CHURCH – Pittsburg

We pray this letter finds you all in great spirits and health! Pastor Eddie, Pastor Keith and his wife Kim have returned from their trip to Israel. They have been sharing their experiences the past few weeks and we can't wait to hear more! Brother Deon Baker led us in two wonderful services in their absence and we are so thankful for his willingness to bring us the Word of God! our bi-annual Blood Drive was held Wednesday, March 22, from 3:30-6:30pm. We had many wonderful people God sent our way here at PFWBC. Our youth group provided a meal for us in the Life Center.

As this is being written, we are preparing for many upcoming events...On Good Friday, April 14, over 260 members from PFWBC will be gathering together to enjoy a night of worship at the SIU Arena in Carbondale to see the contemporary Christian group, *Casting Crowns* . We are looking forward to being in a spirit of worship leading up to Resurrection Sunday!

Preparations are coming along for our Community wide Easter Egg Hunt on April 15 at the Pittsburg City Hall. The kiddos are getting excited to grab their baskets and have a day of fun! Resurrection Sunday is a favorite day for many here at PFWBC. We will begin the morning with our SonRise service at 6am followed by the most delicious breakfast spread you've ever seen! Then we will come back together at 10am for our worship service and dismiss our evening service. It will be a wonderful day in the Lord!

We pray everyone has a blessed Resurrection Sunday!

Progress, progress, progress! The building project of our new Sanctuary is coming right along! Paint is on the walls, preparations are being made to lay flooring and other finishes in the coming weeks...we are excited to see God's finished product and enjoy His presence in the future services held there!

We are looking forward to hosting the FWB Quarterly Meeting coming up this month! Hope to see you there!

"Making our faith seen in 2017!" – Read Matthew 5:16

Pastor: Eddie Donelson

Pastor: Keith McDannel

Reporter: Hollie Utley

FIRST CHURCH - Johnston City

On March 5, Brother Keith's sermon title was "GraceNotes: The Song of the Wanderer" from Psalm 107:1-9. He informed us of the wanderer's situation, supplication, solution, and satisfaction. Following the message, he showed a video, "Come as You Are." Brother Keith plans to continue this sermon series through April 2.

In an effort to raise funds for missions, our women began a "traveling basket." Each week, the basket contains a new item (food, craft, etc.) to be exchanged for a donation. Then the person may take the basket "traveling" and return it with a new item the next Sunday, or they may simply leave the basket for someone else to fill.

March 5, we began a new Sunday night study called the "Death and Resurrection of the Messiah." This ten-session Bible study from noted teacher and historian, Ray Vander Laan, is part of the *That the World May Know* series. Filmed on location in Israel, this unique video series brings God's Word to life. Please join us. We enjoy a fellowship supper each Sunday night after the 6:00 p.m. service.

If you or anyone you know is interested in being a volunteer at JC Kids' Lunch Bunch (our summer meals program), there will be an informational meeting, Thursday, March 30, 7:00 in the fellowship hall. This meeting is of special interest to first-time volunteers. Additional training sessions will be scheduled later. Lunch Bunch begins June 5 and goes until August 4.

Have you checked out our church website (www.jc1fwb.com)? You can listen to the all the sermons in our pastor's *Grow in Grace* series by clicking on "Podcasts." If you would like to be notified of future updates on our website, enter your email address on the page: jc1fwb.com/subscribe.

My roommate, Regina, passed away March 9 in the hospital. Her family would appreciate your prayers. "Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins." (Proverbs 10:12)

Pastor: Keith Fletcher

Reporter: Reba Ritter



Celebrate the Risen Christ – Easter Sunday

BEAR POINT CHURCH – Rural Sesser

Happy Easter! Praise the Lord He is RISEN!

We had six that attended the “Ignite the Flame” banquet at the Ina Church on February 18.

Brother Barry Simpson was with us on Sunday, February 19. In the evening service he presented information about creating revocable trusts with the FWB Foundation.

Congratulations to Jennifer Taylor and Kirk Hayes on their engagement. Also, to Meagan Bunton and Seth Murray who are engaged.

Brother Larry celebrated his 70th birthday on March 8. Thankful for our church family and the love shown him through cards and the love gift.

Pastor: Larry Cook

Reporter: Linda Cook

BLUE POINT CHURCH – Rural Cisne

Our Wednesday youth program continues with large numbers of young people each week. Our Sunday school classes have been participating in a church volleyball tournament. Games are played on Sunday evenings after church. Those that stick around to watch the games are treated to popcorn and popsicles.

Congratulations to JoAnn Atwood and Dale Cailteux. They were recently married in a small family ceremony. Brother Ernie has enjoyed attending the pastor’s breakfasts that are held on the first Monday of each month. Several have been gathering at the Country Pride Restaurant in Mt. Vernon at 8:30 in the morning.

We recently held our Annual Talent Night for Missions. Many church people participated with readings, instrumentals, and vocal solos. Over a thousand dollars was given for the Illinois Women Active for Christ projects.

Brother Ernie Lewis has been traveling this month with the Illinois Board of Missions. They took a tour of parts of Champaign with Jamie Lee in February. The board also traveled to Joliet in March to meet with three Hispanic preachers and a couple from Puerto Rico who are planning to plant an Hispanic work in the old Immanuel FWB Church building. Please pray for these new mission works in Illinois.

Pastor: Ernie Lewis

Reporter: Suzanne Lewis

ILLINI INITIATIVE – a ministry to International Students at University of Illinois

The days are getting longer and soon the sights and sounds of warm days will be upon us, even as it is presently snowing outside. Spring is just around the corner. In my conversation groups I often ask the students what is your favorite time of the year and to my surprise spring is the answer I receive most often. It is a time of year for new life and fresh beginnings, and opportunities to share about the new life found in Jesus. I am reminded of Naito from Thailand who this past week asked about the meaning of Easter. It never gets old to be the one who gets to share the gospel of Jesus to someone who is hearing it for the first time.

We have an interesting year so far as it pertains to the students at the English Corner. We have several visiting scholars and post-doc researches coming to our meetings. These students are from Italy, Turkey, Germany, and Japan. It is an interesting mix with our undergraduate Chinese students. Our conversation groups are going well and I really enjoy the group called “Big Questions of Life”. I am praying that this time of asking questions of truth will allow these students to become seekers of truth and truth through Christ.

I ask that you would be in prayer for our Easter event. We always look forward to this day. It is a great time to get students to go to church. It has become our favorite day of ministry. There is such a great potential for the gospel on Easter and we can’t wait to see who God will put in our path this year.

Thanks you so much for all of you who are concerned for our ministry here. We thank you for your support and your prayers. We are so blessed to have the opportunity to serve these students from around the world.

The Tyler Penn Family

HAZEL DELL CHURCH - Rural Sesser

Hello from all of us at Hazel Dell! We ask for special prayers for Joey Hicks, grandson of Brother Roger and Sister Sandy Hicks. Joey was involved in a recent accident. He and the family are in need of our prayers and support.

The Men's Prayer Breakfast group met for their monthly meetings on Sunday, February 5th and March 5th.

Our condolences to Brother Danny Kirk and family on the recent passing of his sister, Patsy Dickey. Please remember this family in your prayers.

We had a good turnout for our Church Wide Valentine Dinner and Service held on February 12th. Brother Jason Janus was with us to deliver the message. Special music was by Brother Kaleb Miller. We enjoyed a good evening of worship, games, food and fellowship. Thank you to Brother Rusty and Sister LeAnn Miller and the youth for organizing and decorating for this special evening. A good time was had by all.

A special offering was received on February 12th in support of Welch College. Thank you to all for their generous offerings.

Brother David Williford was our guest speaker on February 19th. He is the Vice President for Institutional Advancement at Welch College. He gave us an update on events at the college and delivered the morning message.

Special thank you to Brother Mike Sample and Brother Brian Gibson for delivering the messages to us while Brother Larry and Sister Peggy visited in Florida for a few days.

"But He was wounded for our transgressions; he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed." - Isaiah 53:5

Pastor: Larry Clyatt

Reporter: Diana Kirk

ARNOLD VIEW CHURCH – Rural Creal Springs

Average Sunday School attendance during February was 84. Skate Night was held on February 6 at Emery Brothers in Marion. The Women Active for Christ meeting was held on February 8. Arnold View had a group at the FCA Game Day event at SIU. The Salukis lost to Evansville, 75-70. Our Valentine Banquet was held on February 12. "A Celebration of Love" was the theme.

Al Winters, 79, passed away on February 15. Zella McCree, 94, also passed away on February 15. Betty Evans, 93, died on February 25. Condolences to these families. A bridal shower for Katie Wise and Derrick Doss was held on February 18. Danny and Julie Beasley shared about their time spent in Ecuador on February 19. The past few years of their lives have been spent in service through One Mission Society. Wanda Karnes shared about her recent trip to Uganda on March 5.

Some of our members helped with storm cleanup near Crossville. Revival services are scheduled at Arnold View on April 23-26. Brother Ben Ryan will be the speaker.

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen." - Matthew 28: 19-20

Pastor: Ivan Ryan

Reporter: Buddy Parks

BAKERVILLE CHURCH – Rural Bonnie

A long time member of Bakerville Free Will Baptist Church, Marie Cochran went to be with the Lord in February. Our hearts go out to her husband Melvin, who is still here and will greatly miss her.

During our Sunday Evening services we just began in March the 10 week study with Dr. David Jeremiah, "Is This The End?: Signs of God's Providence in a Disturbing New World".

"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth". - 2 Timothy 2:15.

Pastor: David Mishler

Reporter: Tammy Hendricks

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Note to Reporters: Please address all correspondence for the Illinois Newsletter to:
David Shores 25 Edgewood Road Mount Vernon, Illinois 62864 or by e-mail to: davids@mvfreewillbaptist.org.
The deadline for articles for the May issue is April 15.

SUNDAY  APRIL 30
FREE WILL BAPTIST INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS
WORLD MISSIONS OFFERING

OAK VALLEY CHURCH – Rural Geff

Looking forward to spring. Our church has revival meetings planned for April 2 thru April 9. Brother Curtis Smith, Pastor of Harmony Church, West Frankfort will be the evangelist. We are praying for awesome services and for everybody to receive from the Lord a refreshed desire to be all we can be and all He wants from us. Everyone is invited to attend. *“Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.” – Proverbs 27:17*

God has been moving!! We have seen new people attending and souls added to His kingdom. We are rejoicing at the advance of His Warriors. We have several on our prayer list as well as other's being attacked by the flu who need prayer.

Our Wednesday evening prayer meeting is having an impact in our lives. God honors his children's prayers.

“So I will sing praise to Your name forever.” – Psalm 61:8

Pastor: Richard Brown

Reporter: Marie Rutger