



Illinois Newsletter February 2019

CHURCH REPORTS AND NEWS OF THE ILLINOIS STATE ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

- The **Illinois State Association** meets at the Harmony Church, rural West Frankfort, March 14 -15 - 16. The program, hotel accommodations and speakers will be announced in the March Newsletter.
- **Brother Larry Clyatt** has announced his retirement as pastor of the Hazel Dell Church.
- The **Illinois State Executive Board** is scheduled to meet at the Mount Vernon Church on February 11th.

HAZEL DELL CHURCH

Pastor: Larry Clyatt Reporter: Diana Kirk

Greetings from all of us at Hazel Dell.

Thank you to the men who helped with the Lifeline Food Pantry Ministry. It was our turn to pick up food from Sesser Foodland and deliver it to the food pantry. This is such a worthwhile community project.

Also, thank you to those who participated in the Student Assistance Program this year.

We had a wonderful Christmas Candlelight Service on December 23rd. There were readings, hymns and lighting of the candles. Thank you to all who participated in any way for this special evening.

The Men's Prayer Breakfast was on January 6th.

Brother Larry announced his retirement to be effective on Mother's Day of this year. He will have been with us 3 years and completing his 50th year in the Free Will Baptist Ministry. We are so blessed to have them minister unto us. Though we are not ready to let them leave us, we are happy for them as they plan to return home to Florida for their retirement. We covet your prayers as we begin our search for a pastor. We believe that the Lord has a pastor and a plan for us.

Brother Larry and Sister Peggy took a short trip home and Brother Mike Sample and Brother Rusty Miller spoke during our two services on Sunday, January 13th. Thank you to these two who are willing to fill in when needed.

Continue to remember our shut-ins in prayer : Wilma Cockrum, Helen Galloway, Gearald Hamilton, and Donna Rice.

"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended; but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before." - Philippians 3:13

PITTSBURG CHURCH

Pastors: Eddie Donelson and Keith McDannel

Reporter: Heather Phillips

February is here!! Praying this February update finds everyone healthy and avoiding all of the sickness going around! January gave us a beautiful first snow of 2019 and we enjoyed all of the snowmen in yards around the area. Not everyone likes snow, but it is an amazing work of our creator! Only God can take a bleak and lifeless winter landscape and make it beautiful. I can almost hear the Lord saying, "Look I am making everything new!"

Catching up on a few events we have had since our last newsletter...We finished December with our Kid's Christmas Program...kids of all ages showed us their talents and we celebrated the birth of Jesus! The littlest ones from the nursery all the way up through 5th grade participated! Following we had a wonderful cookie fellowship in our Life Center. It was a wonderful evening!!!

January was a much-needed slow-down for PFWBC. We had our monthly skate night for the youth at Emery Brothers Skating Rink in Marion and will have another one this month. Everyone always has a great time at skate night! Lots of smiles all around!!

Blessings to all, and we will catch up next month!

♥ 1 John 4:16 ...God is love. Whoever lives in Love, Lives in God, and God in him.



BLUE POINT CHURCH

Pastor: Ernie Lewis

Reporter: Susanne Lewis

On December 16th we were blessed by our Annual Candlelight Service. Many from the church took part with musical numbers, scripture recitations, and readings. Afterwards, we enjoyed a wonderful time of fellowship in the Link.

On the 23rd of December the Junior Church presented an amazing program entitled "Camel Lot". We appreciate the hard work that Bill and Christal Lewis put into this ministry.

Many gathered at the Link on New Year's Eve for a time of fellowship. All enjoyed a game of Blue Point Trivia from the past year. Several stayed around until midnight, playing various board and card games.

We were to host the East Central District quarterly meeting on January 12th, but it had to be postponed due to the snow and wintery weather.

Clayton and Tammy Hampton, church planters to Missoula, Montana, shared with us on a Sunday morning in January.

We are in the middle of the Annual Volleyball Tournament between teams from the various Sunday school classes. Matches are held after the Sunday evening services in the Link. Many stick around to watch and enjoy various refreshments. This is a great time of exercise and fellowship. We have invited several others to take part and this has certainly boosted our Sunday night crowds.

HARMONY CHURCH

Pastor: Curtis Smith

Reporter: Jennifer Cook

Winter winds blow and drive us inside, but even though I'm behind these four walls, my God and Savior is ever-present! He penetrates the deepest, darkest places of our hearts with His perfect, true Light. So when the clouds threaten to blanket your joy, your hope, and your peace, remember we have the Bright and Morning Star to sustain and keep us always.

Church officer elections were held on December 30th.

The following offices were filled: Trustee-Dennis Slater, Sunday School Superintendent-Jeff Hartwick, Assistant Superintendent-Dick Cremer, Clerk-Sherry Stewart, Assistant Clerk-Buffy Diefenbach, Treasurer-Kathy Cremer, Assistant Treasurer-Alice Barron, Youth Leader-Jennifer Meacham, Song Leader-Sadie Phillips, Assistant Song Leader-Trish Smith, Moderator of Business-Dick Cremer, Nursery Coordinator-Jennifer Meacham, Primary 1-Emilee Smith, Primary 2-Cody Alstat, Jr High-Kay Veller. We appreciate all you do in service to the Savior and the body of this church!

January 5th, Brother Curtis and Sister Emilee hosted a birthday party at the church for Lydia. Happy 1st Birthday to Lydia Smith! Harmony Church loves you!

Sisters of Strength and Masters Men will meet on Tuesday, January 15th at 6:30pm for their monthly meeting.

Worship team continues to meet every Monday and Wednesday. Please continue to pray for this ministry that God will lead and guide and our hearts will continually be lifted up in praise to the only One, Jesus Christ, who has the power to save!

Please pray for these upcoming events at Harmony Church. Harmony Church will be hosting the Illinois State Free Will Baptist Meeting this year. The dates are Thursday, March 14th at 7pm, Friday, March 15th at 9am and Saturday, March 16th at 9am. The speakers will be from the FWB North America Ministries.

*"For the LORD God is a sun and shield;
the LORD will give grace and glory; no good thing will He withhold
from those who walk uprightly {for}
God is light and in Him is no darkness at all."
- Psalm 84:11, 1 John 1:5b*

Pray without ceasing...



- Pray for revival for all our churches.
- Pray for churches seeking a pastor.
- Pray for God to call men into the ministry.
- Pray that we may believe His Word.
- Pray that we may stand for God.

ARNOLD VIEW CHURCH

Pastor: Ivan Ryan

Reporter: Buddy Parks

Average Sunday School attendance during December was 88. The average for 2018 was 83. Chester Turner, 100, passed away on November 29. Ryan Hughes, 45, passed away on December 21. Condolences to these families.

The Women's Christmas Party was held at our church on December 3. Congratulations to Noah and Kesha Thomas on the birth of Dean Alan Thomas on December 8th.

Our Christmas Program was held on December 9. "Jingle Bell Beach" was the theme. Brother Pat Henry led our choir in the Christmas Cantata "O Holy Night" on two Sunday mornings.

Adam Brown brought the evening worship message on December 16. Alan Thomas and Josh Colson shared brief remarks on December 30. Our Candlelight Communion Service was a blessing.

"And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ."

- 2 Thessalonians 3:5

FIRST CHURCH – MOUNT VERNON

Pastor: David Shores

We ended the year with a Candlelight Communion service for Christmas, then on the last Sunday night of the year we had a service that featured the talents of people in the church as they sang, gave readings and testimonies, and a sermon.

Brother Craig Smith preached one Sunday morning because our pastor had laryngitis! Brother David did a chalk talk one Sunday evening, something he hadn't done in several years.

We have reorganized a Master's Men group and they have been very busy. They have cleaned, organized, and repaired several things in the church. They are presently remodeling a classroom, building a partition, installing new electrical outlets and installing new LED lights.

The ladies WAC has been meeting at the home of Sandy Ellis and they have several mission fundraisers planned. It is wonderful to see these groups, plus others who help around the church, keeping it tidy and freshly decorated each month.

Pray for us as we plan a revival in the near future.

RESCUE CHURCH

Pastor: Bryant Harris

Reporter: Donna Harmon

Happy New Year from all of us at Rescue! May we all grow further in God's Word thru 2019. If you need any help with a puzzle in 2019, call on our Pastor, Brother Bryant Harris.

Great, and we are thankful:

- Thanksgiving Dinner.
- Tuesday School Christmas program.
- Church program dinner and Santa.
- Christmas Caroling.
- December 30th Business Meeting.

January 8th – Are you ready, Ms. Melinda? Tuesday School is back in session.

Thank you very, very much for the toys we could deliver to the Ministerial Alliance for the children.

We lost another special lady at church, Jane Baine. Our condolences to her husband, John and family. Her beautiful personality and faith will be missed very much.

What an awesome God we serve!

JOHNSTON CITY CHURCH

Pastor: Keith Fletcher

Reporter: Reba Ritter

We would like to invite everyone to "A Night of BBQ and Bluegrass," Saturday, February 16. The Farm Hands, who are the "#1 Bluegrass Band in America" will be at our church for a free concert (freewill offering to be received). The concert begins at 7:00pm, but before that, we will serve an all-you-can-eat BBQ dinner (5:30-6:30) in the fellowship hall. Contributions in a donation jar at the door will help cover the cost of the meal. This is one of the outreach events leading up to the official, public ReLaunch of JCity Church, Sunday, March 24.

I (Reba) was in Heartland Hospital January 11-12 because of an infection in my left leg. I slipped and fell on the 13th and was taken back to the hospital because I hit my head on the concrete floor. When the nurse changed the dressing on the deep wound received, and let me see it, I said, "Oh, I have a hole in my head!"

"Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven." - Matthew 10:32-33



Illinois Newsletter

Illinois State Association of Free Will Baptists
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OR CURRENT RESIDENT

*Note to Church Reporters: News items for the March issue of the Newsletter must be submitted by February 15th.
Please send all articles to davids@mvmfreewillbaptist.org.*

This fundraising dinner helps provide funds for student scholarships through the Welch Fund.

Please receive a special offering for the college before the dinner and bring it with you.

Be sure to encourage your high school students to attend.



ILLINOIS DINNER

Saturday, February 16 | 6:00 P.M.

INA FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

Please contact our
Dinner Chairman,

Brad Ryan
Bradryan@frontiernet.net
682-316-4123,

with a count of how
many will attend from
your church.

This information is needed
for food preparation