



# Illinois Newsletter

July 2019

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



**Saturday, Aug. 17**  
**Registration 8:30 am**  
**Training Sessions 9:00-2:30 pm**  
**Lunch Provided**  
**Ina Free Will Baptist Church**  
**Ina, Illinois**

Presentations by Randall House: David Womack  
 Steve Greenwood, Katie Greenwood  
 Sponsored by Christian Education Board of the  
 Illinois State Association



Speakers for the Convention Include4:  
 Sunday (Sunday School) - Paul Keener (OH)  
 Sunday Morning Worship – Tom Eaton (OK)  
 Sunday Night – Terry Austin (DC)  
 Monday Night – Daniel Edwards (IN)  
 Tuesday Night – Tom Dooley (OH)  
 Wednesday Night – Diego Cueva (VA)

Seminars, CTS competitive finals,, Vertical  
 Three Conference and other activities are  
 scheduled during this three day conference.

## THE ILLINI INITIATIVE

A ministry to International Students at the University of Illinois by Tyler Penn

It is once again summer, and we have had another year of great relationships, conversations, and ministry and another year of saying goodbye. We call May the goodbye month because it seems like most days to begin the month we are saying goodbye to some truly wonderful people. I know graduation is something to be celebrated but we always wish we had more time with our students.

This semester we averaged more students than normal at the English Corner. Normally spring is much lower in attendance but this year it may actually have been higher attended than the fall. We had great turnout to our conversation groups. My big questions of life conversation group has gone really well, and been very interesting this semester. I have a Brazilian lady and a Russian physicist who do not want the group to end, so we are continuing our discussions on life and God and everything in between.

Easter, again was one of our favorite days of the year. We had 5 students attend church with us and then come to our home for an Easter meal. We are always excited about being the first people to really introduce Jesus and the teachings of the Christian faith to these students. We pray that this experience does not just become a fun memory but a turning point in their search for God.

We have some fun news that we are excited about as a family. We will be traveling to Macau, China this summer to work in a VBS for a former student of ours. We also will go to Taiwan to visit the Portells and some past students, and then we will wrap up the trip in Korea so Madden can see his home country and hopefully we can connect with some students there as well.. If you would like to help give towards our China trip you can give to Free Will Baptist International Missions to the Penn account for the China trip. We thank you as always for your prayers and for your support of our family and the ministry we have here among international students

## **JOHNSTON CITY CHURCH**

**Pastor: Keith Fletcher Reporter: Reba Ritter**

Lunch Bunch (our summer meals program) is off to a great start. We held our kickoff community carnival, Saturday, June 1 and began the daily meal service the following Monday. God blessed us with great weather for the kickoff and the first couple weeks of our program. We've fed nearly 100 people each weekday and will continue to do so until August 2. We are so thankful for all our workers and volunteers, including those from other churches in our community. This is truly a Kingdom-building effort. What a blessing it is to work with our brothers and sisters in Christ sharing the love of Jesus in our community!

We will take the gospel out into our community again June 23. Our church will host a free picnic and concert in the park from 4:00-7:00 pm. New Mercy from Welch College will provide the music, and weather permitting, we will use the amphitheater and nearby shelter at Arrowhead Lake. The next Sunday (June 30), the churches of Johnston City will gather at First Christian church for the Fifth Sunday Night Community Sing sponsored by the JC Ministerial Alliance.

Four of our students went to 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade camp at Camp Hope and a couple planned to attend Freshman-Sophomore Camp. We have continued our Wednesday night student ministry (REACH) during the summer. Lunch Bunch staff members provide supper at 6:30 and the students enjoy the Bible lessons and activities 7:00-8:00. We've seen some lunchtime kids come back to church on Wednesday nights, and we're praying we can reach their families too in the fall.

We're thankful Reba Ritter is feeling better and has been able to attend church more frequently lately. We rejoice over her ministry at Integrity Healthcare in Marion where she shares the gospel with every new resident. Over 20 people have prayed to receive Christ since she's been there. In her honor, we would like to close with this verse:

*"Then [Jesus] said to His disciples, 'The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.' " - Matthew 9:37-38*

## **FIRST CHURCH – BENTON**

**Pastor: Phillip Kennedy Reporter: Barbara Spencer**

We shouldn't complain about too much rain here when we see what problems our brothers and sisters down south have now. They need our prayers. The last time this happened, people lost everything they had, some with no insurance.

VBS directed by Sisters Jackie Kennedy and Alisa Leffler took place on May 31 - June 2. The title was Yee Haw and all had a fabulous time. The decorations were very "westernish". On June 2, the children entertained the congregation and we were able to meet parents. There was a noon meal and more time to get acquainted. That evening, we were able to have Brother Jamie Lee back with us for the evening service. We celebrated our 48th. birthday on June 9 with the Phelps Sisters. Those ladies are amazing as are their children. Again we had a noon meal and got to visit more with the Phelps family.

June 16 was Father's Day and each father received a very nice gift. We thank God for answered prayers as Gary Cook was able to be with us the past two Sundays. We ask you to put Jerry Legendre on your prayer list as he is very ill. His sister Margaret needs your prayers too as she is his caretaker. Our prayer list gets longer every week. We continue to pray for Denzil Franklin, Edith Taylor and others. We pray too for the families of those that Brother Marty Leffler serves each week. Another prayer I ask of you is for those churches who are searching for pastors.

## **BLUE POINT CHURCH**

**Pastor: Ernie Lewis Reporter: Suzanne Lewis**

Congratulations to Marissa Byars and Mitchell Levi who were married in a beautiful ceremony at Sam Dale Lake. The reception was held afterwards in the Byars barn.

We had a great crowd of kids and adults at our Vacation Bible School. The theme was "Giddy Up Junction". The church was decorated with a western theme. On Saturday we had a family picnic serving hamburgers and hotdogs, along with inflatables for the children. A great crowd came to the Commencement Program that was held on Sunday morning. We rejoice that two of our regular attenders were saved during the week.

We have already sent several campers and workers to Camp Hope this summer. Hope Walker is serving as one of the S.A.M. workers. Brother Ernie Lewis served as the director for Junior-Senior Camp. A group from Randall University provided the music for Junior-Senior Camp. Jon Hill is a member of this group. They also sang at Blue Point on Sunday morning prior to camp.

Ellie Hill is presently training at Welch College in Nashville. She is on the E-TEAM heading to the Virgin Islands. Our prayers go out to all the teams as they prepare to minister around the world.

**Note to Church Reporters:** News items for the August issue of the Newsletter must be submitted by July 15<sup>th</sup>.  
Please send all articles to [davids@mvffreewillbaptist.org](mailto:davids@mvffreewillbaptist.org).

## HAZEL DELL CHURCH

**Pastor: Curtis Smith Reporter: Diana Kirk**

Hello from the people at Hazel Dell! Our sincere sympathy to the family of Sister Helen Galloway, a long-time member who went to be with the Lord on May 15<sup>th</sup>. She will be greatly missed. Please keep the family in your prayers as they adjust to their loss.

Congratulations to our 2019 Graduates! Caleb and Hannah Miller were our high school graduates and Walker LeVault was our kindergarten graduate.

There was a group of ten from the Peppy Calebs group who met for lunch at the Giant City Lodge on May 27<sup>th</sup>. It was a very enjoyable lunch.

Thank you to David and Karen Harrison, Larry and Len Jones, Brother Larry and Sister Peggy, Cindy Davey, Danny and Diana Kirk and Kynadi Kirk who helped to clean two rooms in the girls' dorm at Camp Hope on May 29<sup>th</sup> in preparation for the 2019 Camp season.

Baby Liam Cannon was introduced to our church during a Sunday morning worship service. He is the son of Gowdy and Kayla Cannon and the grandson of Mike and Pat Sample. Congratulations to all.

Congratulations to Doyle and Earlene Galloway who celebrated their 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. The family held a lovely reception for the couple on June 2<sup>nd</sup> at the church. Many friends and relatives attended.

The men's prayer breakfast group met for their regular monthly meeting on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. There were seven in attendance.

Sister Sarah Malone was with us during our morning worship service on June 9<sup>th</sup> to share her work with the English Language Institute as a teacher/administrator in China. We were blessed to hear of her passion for the people of China. An offering was received to benefit her work.

A joint service with Brother Larry and Brother Curtis Smith will be held on July 7<sup>th</sup> as Brother Curtis becomes our new pastor. We pray for both families as they make the transition.

We ask for your prayers for Brother Brian Lewis who is once again battling cancer. He has begun several weeks of daily treatments in St. Louis. We pray for God's blessings for Brother Brian and his family as they continue on this journey.

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

## ARNOLD VIEW CHURCH

**Pastor: Ivan Ryan Reporter: Buddy Parks**

Average Sunday School attendance during May was 79. Our Mother/Daughter Banquet was held on May 7. "Make Me A Godly Lady" was the theme. Each lady received a flower on Mother's Day. Homecoming was observed on May 19. Brother Bryant Harris and his wife Andrea shared with us in Scripture and Song. We enjoyed a delicious meal afterward. Congratulations to our recent graduates: Chloe Parks (K); Camden Doss, Cameron Hankey, Lily Harris, Josh Loyd and Josie Tanner (8th Grade); Josh Jean, Brooklyn Jennings, Jady Lannom and Tyler Loyd (High School); Mikayla Chamness (JALC); Taylor Wilson (SIU); Andrea Shadley (SIU Law School); and Josh Colson (Welch College MA).

*"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.  
In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." - Proverbs 3:5-6*

## SHORELINES by David Shores

Another reminder that Brother Carl Hawkins sent a letter to our churches to pray about: The **Solid Rock Church of Elgin** has begun a search for a Pastor. Brother Carl Hawkins will be moving November 3<sup>rd</sup>. This is a bivocational position and the church owns a very nice parsonage. For more information, call 248-255-2999. The **Harmony Church** of West Frankfort is searching for a pastor. Also, pray for **Heritage Church** of Springfield, **New Hope Church** of Ina and **First Church** of Moline.

The **Bear Point Church** has a new pastor, Brother **Gowdy Cannon**. He, his wife Kayla and son, Liam are beginning their ministry in the Sesser area this month. He has served in ministry at the **Northwest Church** for several years. Please pray for him and the church.

The **Mount Vernon Church** has called Brother **Craig Smith** as their Associate Pastor. The church welcomed him, his wife, Marcella and son, Haden and daughter, Lucille the first of June.

**DAVID WOMACK of Randall House sent this letter of information to our churches and Sunday Schools:**

D6 Curriculum will cover the following areas of study this upcoming summer quarter:

JUNE (New Testament) theme is "Blessed" - Ephesians

JULY (Old Testament) theme is "Choices Matter" - 2 Kings

AUGUST (Special Topic) theme is "The Gospel Truth" - Various Scripture

Our Special Topic units cover areas of study - where you might want special emphasis - like the names of God, family, finances, parenting, and once a year an entire unit is dedicated to APOLOGETICS.

To request a D6 Scope and Sequence poster call 800-877-7030, email [orders@randallhouse.com](mailto:orders@randallhouse.com), or go online at [d6curriculum.com](http://d6curriculum.com).



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Illinois State Association of Free Will Baptists  
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## PITTSBURG CHURCH

**Pastors: Eddie Donelson and Keith McDannel Reporter: Heather Phillips**

July is such a great time of year! Okay well, everything except the heat! The kiddos are in the middle of summer break. Families are spending more time at the ball fields and summer vacations are underway. July is when we take time to celebrate our national freedoms and the birth of this great country, the greatest country in the world. We are incredibly blessed to live where we live.

The men of PFWBC hosted a Fellowship Breakfast on Saturday, June 15 at Cracker Barrel in Marion and it was a huge success!! They had a wonderful time enjoying each other's company! We are thankful for all of our Father's and most importantly our Heavenly Father!

We know when it warms up outside, that must mean Vacation Bible School is quickly approaching! We are getting ready to open the doors for as many as the Father would send our way. VBS is set for the week of July 15-19, from 6:15-8:30pm. This year's theme is **ROAR! Life is wild...God is good**. We are excited to head out on a five day epic African adventure that explores God's goodness! Kids will discover a FEROCIOUS faith that powers them through their wild life! We are expecting a high energy, fast-paced week and we are praying for lives to be forever changed.

August will be here before we know it and the kids will be heading back to school. We are currently planning our annual Back 2 School Bash. We are praying for the lives that will be touched because of the blessing God has bestowed upon us to share with the community. More information will be on our website very soon, [www.pittsburgfwb.org](http://www.pittsburgfwb.org).

We pray everyone has a great month of July!



**CELEBRATE  
INDEPENDENCE DAY**

