



Illinois Newsletter

June 2019

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

JOHNSTON CITY CHURCH

Pastor: Keith Fletcher

Sister Reba has not been feeling well and except for Easter Sunday has been unable to attend services. The rest of us have been so busy with ReLaunch and Easter Services that we missed a couple months of reports to the Newsletter.

Several guests joined us for our ReLaunch Sunday, March 24, and others came Easter morning. Some have continued attending and have indicated a desire to become more involved. Our Easter theme was "This Changes Everything" (referring to the cross and empty tomb). The following Sunday, to illustrate the power of the gospel to change people, Cris Corzine-McCloskey, director of Caring Counseling Ministry in Marion, shared a powerful testimony of how God brought her out of addiction and prison, helped her earn a degree, and become not only a state licensed social worker, but also the director of the ministry of her dreams. We will probably hear more about CCM because our pastor's wife Sarah Fletcher, starts working as a counselor on May 21. She will soon take the exam to become a LCPC (Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor) and plans to use that ministry skill in our community where the need is great.

As our ReLaunch continues, we are working to stay outwardly focused. We helped with the Gum Drops program by gathering, sorting and bagging food items to fill more than 350 bags that Johnston City students will take home the first two Fridays of May. Our wonderful ReLaunch team and others donated the food and packed the bags. Four team members set up a stand at the Johnston City Community Easter Egg hunt. We gave away bags of popcorn and received prayer requests in our "Old Rugged Prayer Box." Our Friday morning prayer team is committed to pray for these needs as well as others in our church and community.

Another Lunch Bunch volunteer training meeting was scheduled May 13. We kick off Lunch Bunch (our summer meals program) with a community carnival, Saturday, June 1, 11:00-2:00 pm in the church parking lot. We start daily lunches and activities Monday, June 3, 11:30 am and continue through August 2. If you would like to help or know someone in the Johnston City area who would benefit from this ministry, please call 618-944-4903.

HAZEL DELL CHURCH

Pastor: Larry Clyatt Reporter: Diana Kirk

Hello from the people at Hazel Dell!

Praise the Lord! We have a new pastor. God sent us Brother Curtis Smith and family as a pastoral candidate on April 28th. Our church family voted to accept him on May 5th. We thank God for hearing and answering prayer. Brother Larry and Sister Peggy will continue to be with us while we wait for the transition to take place. We have been so blessed to have them with us for the past three years and we wish them the best as they retire to their home in Florida.

The Community Good Friday Service was held at Sesser First Baptist Church on April 19th. Brother Larry Cook delivered the sermon. It is always such a joy to worship with our fellow community Christians. It was a great service.

The Peppy Calebs met at Fujiyama's in Mt. Vernon on April 25th for their luncheon. We had such a good time as we enjoyed each other's company. We laughed as some even attempted to catch food in their mouths.

Brother Rob Robbins was with us to speak during our morning worship service on May 5th. It is always a pleasure when he returns to speak to us. We appreciate him coming to speak as Brother Larry and Sister Peggy were at the Ina FWB Church to preach in honor of Brother Larry's 50th year of pastoral service. Ina was the first church Bro. Larry pastored following his graduation.

The men's prayer breakfast group met for their regular monthly meeting on May 5th. There were 11 in attendance.

Thank you to Brother Larry and Sister Peggy, Rusty Miller, Larry and Len Jones, and Danny and Diana Kirk for helping with the duties for the April Five Loaves Café. Also, thank you to Brother Larry, Ted Thompson, Jim LeVault, Larry Jones and Danny Kirk for assisting with the food pick up for the local food pantry.

There were several mothers present for Mother's Day. Brother Larry and Sister Peggy's children and grandchildren were present, also. We were so blessed with special songs by the Clyatt family. Thank you to the Men's Group for their gifts to all the mothers. Our World Missions Offering totaled \$1,000. Thank you to all who gave so willingly!

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

"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

To him be glory both now and forever. Amen." - 2 Peter 3:18

BRIDGE CHURCH

Pastor: Jamie Lee

Right off the bat I would just like to thank everyone who participated into 21 days of prayer.

Your prayers were definitely felt. In April we made a really good turn for the better. You could tell God was really working in all of our services. He also has been working in our community in our connecting with people.

We recently were faced with the decision to lease an office space or continue to work out of our home. We were able to lease an office. We need about \$500 to be able to finish the office projects. Right after we signed the lease, we begin to pray that God would expand our ministry and in April he did. We are sponsoring a Celebrate Recovery group and they are meeting in our new office location.

We had a really good turnout for our Easter service. God really moved in our service and I know for a fact He touched many hearts that day. We had several international students attend the service. After our service we went to a local park to have our egg hunt. Not to mention, the entire month of April God really moved in our services.

Recap of What God did in April: (1) We averaged right at 65 for April. (2) We had 10 new visitors for April and had positive feedback. (3) A gentleman who I met doing chaplain work came to one of our services. I am working on developing a friendship outside of the chaplain work. (4) We grew by 6 through Celebrate Recovery.

ARNOLD VIEW CHURCH

Pastor: Ivan Ryann Reporter: Buddy Parks

Average Sunday School attendance during April was 84. Jo Barger, 81, passed away on April 2. Bill Beal, 89, passed away on April 7. Condolences to these families. The Women Active for Christ Meeting was held on April 10. The Lord's Supper/Feet Washing Service was held on Palm Sunday. Our Easter Egg Hunt was held on April 20. Pastor Ivan Ryan brought a timely message at our Easter Sunrise Service. The Everready Class provided a wonderful breakfast. The Cantata "I Know My Redeemer Lives" was a blessing. It was directed by Pat Henry and narrated by Mark Doss. Adam Brown brought an inspiring Easter message.

Arnold View hosted the South Central District Meeting on April 27. Miracle Sunday was on April 28. Todd Greiner shared his testimony of surviving a plane crash. We had a delicious meal to celebrate Linda Eason's 17 years of life after brain surgery. Brother Larry Clyatt brought the message that evening.

"The Lord is my strength and song, and is become my salvation." - Psalm 118:14

BLUE POINT CHURCH

Pastor: Ernie Lewis Reporter: Suzanne Lewis

On a recent Sunday evening Brother Ernie and Suzanne gave a presentation about their mission trip to France. A large group of ladies and girls attended our Mother-Daughter Banquet. The speaker was Amy Kemp of the Oblong Children's Christian Home. Suzanne represented the church at the Illinois State Women Active for Christ meeting at the Calvary Church in Salem. There have been baby showers recently for Angie Parker and Megan Spitzner.

Our church has recently done some renovation in the front foyer. It has received a new coat of paint and a ceramic tile floor to replace the carpet. Brother Ernie and Suzanne recently celebrated thirty-five years at Blue Point. The church surprised with many gifts representing the number thirty-five.

Kim Hill is hosting a Monday evening Women's Bible Study in the Link. Ellie Hill recently participated in the CTS Competition and will be advancing to the National Youth Conference with her dramatic presentation. Ellie also held a bake/rummage sale to finish raising money for E-TEAM and Truth and Peace. Many from the church contributed items to help with the fund raiser.

Brother Ernie attended the Executive Board meeting held in Mt. Vernon. He also went to a Pastor's Breakfast held in Mt. Vernon on a Monday morning. Our own Vicki Gifford was recently a 'featured artist' at the Frontier Community College Art Show. We were blessed on a recent Sunday morning with a 'Baby Dedication' service for Gideon Lewis (son of Bill and Christal Lewis), Brock Byars (son of Hayden and Amelia Byars), and Savannah Jo and Anna Beth Endsley (twin daughters of Lance and Lindsey Endsley). Many of their family members were able to attend this service.

Congratulations to our many graduates. Logan Hosick received his Bachelors from SIU Carbondale. Junior College graduates included Marissa Byars from Kaskaskia, Mitchell Levi from Wabash Valley College, and Colin Waller and Ruth Marie Simmons from Olney Central College. Eighth grade graduates included Noah Greene, Abigail Freeman, Avery Smith, and Brendan Harrison. Joey Allison graduated from Olney Central College on the night before he graduated from Cisne High School.

PITTSBURG CHURCH

Pastors: Eddie Donelson and Keith McDannel Reporter: Heather Philips

Summer is just around the corner and we are excited about the warm temperatures and sunshine!!

This past month, our AWANA program came to a close with our commencement ceremony and block party. The kids and workers were recognized for their achievements, dinner was served and fun was had on the inflatables! Our summer program on Wednesday evenings for the kids has begun and we have had a good turnout so far.

We celebrated our mothers on Mother's Day with a beautiful carnation flower this year! The smiles on the faces were priceless!! Also, the women of PFWBC hosted the yearly Women's Banquet, on Friday, May 10. This year's theme was "Which Shoe Fits You?" Everyone had a wonderful evening of laughing, eating and sharing together!

As this is being prepared, we are planning for our annual Dutch Anderson Memorial Day Fish Fry event on Sunday, May 26! We are praying for a wonderful turnout and fellowship with all!

VBS preparations are already underway here at PFWBC. The decorating committee has been working hard since March to make this year's decor awesome! The adventure begins on July 15-19, LIFE IS WILD! GOD IS GOOD! We can't wait! Praying everyone has a great start to the summer and **Happy Father's Day** to all the fathers!

"Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who delights greatly in His commandments.

His descendants will be mighty on earth; the generation of the upright will be blessed." - Psalm 112:1-2 (NKJV)

FIRST CHURCH - BENTON

Pastor: Phillip Kennedy Reporter: Barbara Spencer

Things are alive and well at First Free Will Baptist Church in Benton. Like others, we wish the rain wouldn't fall every two or three days. This is God's world and he is in control. The South Central Quarterly was held at Arnold View Church, delegates were Gail and Barbara Spencer. Rusty Carney was the speaker this day and we were able to give him \$700 to help with the amount he needed. By this time next month, the Carney's will be in Japan. It has been a joy having them home this long. Pray for them as they start their ministry with the McDonalds.

This was also the weekend for CTS and we're very proud of James Kennedy for winning with his solo. We are honored to have him sing for us at church and he has also given a devotion.

Master's Men held a fishing tournament at the Camp Hope - dodging rain drops. At the same time, Jackie Kennedy, Barbara Spencer and Barbara Smith were enjoying the State WAC meeting. We always receive a special message from Sarah Malone and Kelley Penn gave an update from their projects and students. Paula Hays gave a heart touching devotion. The children sang special songs they had learned on Easter Sunday.

We were happy to have Brother Larry Clyatt visit before they move back to Florida. Shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child are being packed now as Mrs. Marci tries for doing 10 every month.

Zeb Leffler graduated High School on May 11 and Delaney Leffler graduated Junior High on May 10. One other High School graduate was Katie Czuprynski. Denzil Franklin is at home at the present, but still needs our prayers. We were happy to have Brandon Page on Mother's Day. He is recuperating from an operation. All ladies were honored on Mother's Day. Sister Jackie and others have been preparing props for a week end VBS starting May 31. Our prayer list, like many of yours, is long. Shall we just pray for God's touch on all the names.

SHORELINES *by David Shores*

Brother Carl Hawkins sends this letter to our churches: "We here at **Solid Rock Church of Elgin**, are going to begin searching for a Pastor. We are moving south because of some personal issues in our lives. I would like to ask for the help of fellow brothers in Christ to **pray** that God's will be done in the search. This is a bivocational position and the church owns a very nice parsonage. My last day in Elgin is November 3rd.

For more information, call my cell 248-255-2999

Brother in Christ Carl Hawkins!"

The First Free Will Baptist Church of Greenwood Arkansas is also looking for a Senior Pastor. The church has an Associate Pastor and is searching for interested preachers who feel God could use them to minister to their congregation. You may contact **Mr. Steve Coleman**, a member of the Search Committee, by telephone at 479-252-8189

The **Harmony Church** of West Frankfort will be searching for a pastor. Also, pray for other churches also searching for a pastor: **Heritage Church** of Springfield, **Bear Point Church** of Sesser, **New Hope Church** of Ina and **First Church of Moline**. ... *Continued on Page 4*



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Happy Father's Day!

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

SHORELINES continued from Page 3...

Congratulations to 2019 Welch College graduates **Joshua Colson (MA) and Emily Petty (BA)**

To see the list of winners of **2019 State CTS Competition**, go to our State Website: www.ilfwb.org, click on "Boards", then click on "CTS Board". These young people will represent Illinois at the National Convention in Cincinnati in July.

RESCUE CHURCH

Pastor: Bryant Harris Reporter: Donna Harmon

We woke up with no rain this morning. Does everyone weighed our fish like this? My students in class this morning told me about the annual youth fishing tournament at camp hope. First Place Trophy: Benjamin Harris and Roper Sandors - 171 ounces ; Second Place Trophy: Jevan and Broxton Squires - 163 ounces; Eva Harmon and Trace Beatty third place mention; Logan Fulkerson won the Guppy Award.

March 29th was our WAC meeting at the home of Jane Harmon.

Brother Bryant must be doing a great job with the teen parties. There was another one April 28th.

Homecoming will be May 26. This is a big day with a Pastor Kent Dunford coming home again. He helped us so much between pastors. He will bring the morning message with food and eats following. Good fellowship will be with us and there will be no services on Sunday evening. The Gospel Messengers will be the special signers of the day and church will start that morning at 10:00 AM.

Kacie Freeman is now doing her student teaching three days a week. Her mother, Karen was telling me she loves it and she is nearing the end of her college training.

Congratulations to all these students of whom we are so proud, and for all the times now or before that we have shared our Christianity with you. The very best to all of you.!

8th Grade Graduates: Payton Heater, Aaron Webb, Zane Harmon, Aidan Beatty and Hadleigh Swetz.

High School Graduates: Lane Kelly, Hanna Leeks, Jeraka Sotelo, Casey Lingle, and Carter Lingle in memoriam.

College graduate: Tommi Poe, and Ms Melinda Squires' Tuesday School graduated 16 children.

I know all this is late, but I hope that every mother had a Happy Mother's Day. *"What an awesome God we serve!"*