



# Illinois Newsletter

March 2019

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

**Illinois State Association to meet at Harmony Church, rural West Frankfort.**

**Thursday, March 14 – Saturday, March 16**

**Thursday, March 14** - Evening – 7:00 pm - Seminar sponsored by Illinois C.E. Board

Speaker: Ken Akers, Master’s Men Director

**Friday, March 15** – Business Session, 9:00 am -10:30 am

Worship Service – Morning: 11:00 am – Speaker: Brad Ransom, Chief Training Officer

Business Session – Afternoon, 1:30 pm – 4:00 pm

Banquet – 5:00 pm

Evening Worship – 7:00 pm – Speaker: Brad Ransom

**Saturday, March 16** – Business Session, 9:00 am – 11:00 am

Worship Service– 11:00 am - Speaker: Ken Akers.

**The following list of hotels / motels are available in the area:**

**Lake Cove Resort**

13277 Freeway Lane

Whittington, IL (618/200-4116)

\$70.00 per night

Passcode: Free Will Baptist

**Drury Inn**

Marion, IL

(618/997-9600)

**Country Inn & Suites**

Marion, IL

(618/997-2444)

**Holiday Inn Express**

Marion, IL

(618/993-5602)

**Hampton Inn**

Marion, IL

(618/998-9900)

## EMILY MALONE DISTRICT WOMEN ACTIVE FOR CHRIST

Reporter Suzanne Lewis

The Emily Malone District of the Illinois Women Active for Christ will be meeting Saturday, March 30th at the Bear Point Church in Sesser. The meeting will begin at 10:00am. Ellie Hill will be sharing about her upcoming E-TEAM trip to the Virgin Islands. Sarah Malone will be speaking during the worship service. The Bear Point ladies will provide a meal at noon. All ladies are invited to attend.

## WELCH COLLEGE HONOR ROLL

The fall 2018 semester at Welch College ended with 105 students receiving academic recognition, according to Provost Matthew McAfee. This honor roll includes both online and Enriched Adult Studies students whose fall courses ended in late December. Congratulations to these Illinois students on that list:

**President’s List: “A” Honor Roll: Jessie Eubanks** – Sophomore, **Jonathan Payne** – Sophomore and **Kendal Ryan** – Sophomore

**Provost’s List: “B” Honor Roll: Emily Petty** – Senior, **Emma Guthrie** – Junior, **Sarah Pierce** - Junior and **Ben Barcroft** – Freshman

## BRIDGE CHURCH Pastor: Jamie Lee

Thank you for your continued financial and prayer support for the Bridge Church. Adam and Rebecca Garrett arrived full-time in January. They have already jumped in and have made an impact all across the board. They have picked up much of the slack and it has been a game changer for the Bridge Church. We have picked up momentum with seeing new visitors on a regular basis. We are keeping consistent numbers on Sunday mornings!

In February we are hoping to partner with one of the schools in Champaign with honoring Black History Month. We have also been in touch with various organizations to provide lunch for their staff. We are also getting ready to partner with the Illini Initiative and the English Corner in working with international students as a church. Lastly, we are praying about advertising in the AMC theatre as our ad will reach thousands of people! Please continue pray for a movement of God and we find favor in Champaign.

## BEAR POINT CHURCH

**Pastor: Larry Cook Reporter: Lana Travelstead-Eubanks**

March is finally here! What a couple of months of crazy weather we have been having. From warm spring-like weather one day, to monsoon season, to the freezing rain and snow the next. All the extremes fueling the debate of climate change or global warming. The Bible tells us in Genesis 8:22 – “While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.” (Of course it doesn’t happen to mention that it all could occur in February!) I believe both are happening. With climate change, I think it is the earth’s natural life progression in accordance with God’s will and whatever He wants will be. But what does the Bible tell us about global warming, I began to question. In Genesis 2:15 “The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and keep it.” God gave mankind a command and told him that he must tend or keep the garden.” That means that we are stewards of the earth. God gave mankind dominion over the earth but not in order to use or misuse it at any cost for any reason. We have destroyed many areas of the planet to suit our own needs and this earth must groan under the weight of the ravaging and pillaging of the planet. Perhaps we are now beginning see and reap what we have sown up until now. Let us pray and ask God’s guidance in what small rolls we and our government can do to protect and “tend” our garden that the Lord charged us with.

On January 30th, Emerson Zsido announced the birth of her little Sister, Hazel Mae, weighing in at 6lbs 14oz. and 19” long. Mom and Dad, Heidi and Jon are doing well and Grandparents Jerome and Patty Kopec are over the moon with another girl! Congrats to all!

On, Saturday February 16th, our youth helped Jim and Joyce Price with a clean up project. We are so proud of our youth volunteering their time to help others with a need and already practicing good stewardship in “tending” His garden. Great job guys!

On Sunday, February 17th, the youth led the morning worship service in song and did a great job. The Church also took up a special offering for the Welch College Scholarship.

*Coming up...*

Happy March Birthday to Brother Larry Cook. May the Lord bless you on your special day and know how much you are truly appreciated and loved by everyone at Bear Point.

Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, Happy 50th Anniversary to Brother Larry and Sister Linda Cook. The family would like to invite everyone to come and help celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary at the Church from 2 PM to 4 PM. No presents please, only your presence is requested!

Saturday, March 23rd is the date set to go to Love Packages in Butler, IL. We will be leaving from the Church at 6:30AM. Lunch will be provided.

## PITTSBURG CHURCH

**Pastors: Eddie Donnelson and Keith McDaniel**

**Reporter: Heather Phillips**

March has arrived and we are looking forward welcome the newness and freshness of springtime. There are signs all around that spring is at hand. Our days are longer and brighter, most of our snow has melted, and rivers are rising, in some places to flood level. This morning I heard flocks of geese flying overhead.

This year our PFWBC February skate night happened to fall on Valentine’s Day. This is always a fun time for the young and ‘young at heart’ to get out and fellowship while being entertained by those brave enough to skate!! We enjoy this once a month gathering so much. It is a true testament to I Corinthians 16:14 “Let all that you do be done in love.”

During the month of March PFWBC will begin to offer a Christian weight-loss and healthy living program, *First Place For Health*. It has guided hundreds of thousands of people to a healthy lifestyle and a closer walk with the Lord. *First Place For Health* is successful due to its biblical approach to weight loss and overall health management, which puts Christ first and improves every area of a person’s life. We are looking forward to helping encourage, equip, motivate, and inspire people on their wellness journey.

This month we will making plans for Easter. Even though Easter is officially in April, we are looking forward to the celebration of our risen Savior. Easter Sunday, we will have our SONrise service at 6am and a wonderful breakfast to follow. We will meet at 10am for our normal worship service. Praying for this time of celebration and that God would pour out His spirit upon these upcoming services.

Lord, let us enjoy the sunshine and the rain and let them be reminders that YOU are at work!

**YOUTH CAMP DATES for 2019: Leadership Camp – May 30-June 1, Junior/Senior High Camp – June 2-7, Junior High Camp – June 9-14, Junior Camp – June 16-21, Freshman/Sophomore Camp – June 23-28, Primary Camp – June 30-July 4.**

**JOHNSTON CITY CHURCH** Pastor: Keith Fletcher Reporter: Reba Ritter

Over 200 attended "A Night of BBQ and Bluegrass" with the Farm Hands. Our church presented this evening as a gift to our community in preparation for our official "ReLaunch," Sunday, March 24. Thanks to a very thorough article by Vince Hoffard, country music columnist for the *Southern Illinoisan*, many more people learned about our church's new name and our vision for Johnston City. We appreciate the hard work our faithful ReLaunch team put into this special event.

We will once again serve our community as the site of a community VBS during spring break, March 10-14. The theme is "Up, Up and Away With Jesus, and volunteers from several area churches will be helping with this Bible School.

Pastor Keith and Sarah have been blessed with their first grandchild. Penelope Irene Page, was born to their daughter Hannah and son-in-law Daniel, February 12 in Nashville, TN. She weighed 7 pounds, 1 ounce, 20 inches long, and is beautiful and healthy in answer to many prayers.

*"Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few.' - Matthew 9:37.*

**FIRST CHURCH – BENTON** Pastor: Phillip Kennedy Reporter: Barbara Spencer

Greetings from Benton First. We are alive and well even tho the Church was closed once because of ice and snow. The second time we had ice, services were held for those who could get there. There were a couple of falls I understand. We were fortunate to have Sarah Malone with us in December. We always like to have her tell us about her ministry. Master's Men met for their annual Chili supper and filled Christmas Treat Bags. Woman's Aux. held a Christmas Party for the ladies of the church. The children had a program for Christmas and the back ground props were really cute, including the live props. We observed communion on the last Sunday and a foot washing in the evening.

The Quarterly meeting in January was at Alexander Church and was attended by the Zimmermans and the Kennedys. The speaker was extra special. The church Valentine Party was held on Feb. 13 and well attended. We lost a charter member just before Thanksgiving when Sister Mary Cook passed away. Stephanie Page has been running this wintery weather and has won some marathons. Children's Church filled 82 boxes for Operation Christmas Child and have already started packing them for this year with a goal of 100 plus.

Please pray for Denzil Franklin who suffered a stroke and is in Barnes Hospital. Others we hold up in prayer are George and Mary Bauer, Gary Cook, Edith Taylor, Brandon Page and our pastor's wife who is having some problems. We're hoping no ice this Sunday. God Bless you all.

**HERITAGE CHURCH** Reporter: Marilyn Guthrie

February is here, with unpredictable weather. The Polar Vortex has passed in and out of Springfield. We, at Heritage Church are still here, small but strong, fighting against Satan's tyranny.

We are a church without a Shepherd. Our spiritual leader, Rev. Dr. Marcellus Leonard has passed on to his greater glory back in August. He left many memories and lessons learned through his gentle, inspired leadership.

We now have manning the helm, Elder/Trustees Tom Green, Tom Hay and we are blessed to have Rev. Paul Boyer and his wife Mayron from Victory Church helping deliver the message.

Heritage has faithful members and would like to recognize Trustee - Ronnie Winston for his loyal dedication and maintaining the church grounds.

We are also blessed with Paula Irby delivering her gift of music vocals and piano accompaniment and Tom Hay doing special music on his trumpet.

Keep Heritage Church in prayer as we look forward to growth and Revival for our small loving church.

**ARNOLD VIEW CHURCH**

Pastor: Ivan Ryan Reporter: Buddy Parks

Average Sunday School attendance during January was 81. Emma Jean McDonald, 84, passed away on January 6. Wanda McCabe, 89, passed away on January 15. Loretta Lambert, 84, passed away on January 20. Geri Ann Glasco, 24, died in an automobile accident on January 24. Mike Henry, 76, passed away on January 27. Condolences to these families.

The Women Active for Christ Meeting was held on January 9. The WAC had a kid-themed Band-Aid collection for Children's Hospital. A group from our church attended the Faith & Family event at SIU. The Salukis lost to Valparaiso, 65-61. Services were canceled on January 20 due to a winter storm. Pastor Ivan and Diane Ryan, Adam Brown and Colene Doss attended the South Central District Meeting on January 26 at Alexander.

*"This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all." - 1 John 1:5*



# Illinois Newsletter

Illinois State Association of Free Will Baptists  
P.O. Box 1  
Bonnie, Illinois 62816-0001

U. S. Postage Paid  
Non-Profit Org.  
Bonnie, IL  
Permit Number 1

**OR CURRENT RESIDENT**

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

## **BLUE POINT CHURCH**

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

Brother Ernie took several of our teens and college students to Winter Jam Concert in Evansville, Indiana. One of our teenagers, Ellie Hill, will be going to E-TEAM to the Virgin Islands this summer. She shared about her trip on a Sunday morning and we received an offering for her account.

We have now had to dismiss two Sunday morning services and one Sunday evening service due to snow and ice conditions. One Wednesday evening we cancelled our youth classes and adult Bible study due to extremely low temperatures. We are all eagerly anticipating spring.

Brother Ernie and Suzanne went to Salem to see Kathy Hayes in the play, "Francine's Will". They thoroughly enjoyed this comedy. They also attended an Ignite the Flame planning meeting held at Ryan's Steakhouse in Mt. Vernon. Mike Edwards represented Welch College and updated everyone on the activities and progress there. Brother Ernie has attended a Mission Board in Springfield and an Executive Board meeting in Mt. Vernon.

We are still grieving over the sudden and unexpected loss of Joyce Kingsbury. Joyce had been an adult Sunday school teacher for forty years and was the overseer of our kitchen in the Link. Her services and a meal for the family were all held at Blue Point.

We held a special Valentine Dinner for the group of teenagers in "Connect" at the Link. The teens were served a delicious Italian meal before having their lesson for the evening. They finished the night by playing several games in the gym.

### **CTS COMPETITION**

will be held at the Ina Church  
Friday and Saturday, April 26-27

