



Illinois Free Will Baptist

February 2020

# Newsletter

## ILLINOIS STATE ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

Calvary Church 2868 South Broadway Salem, Illinois 62881 Phone: 618-548-1669

March 19 -21, 2020

The Calvary Church will present a Dinner and Theatre performance at Grace Methodist Church at 116 East Schwartz Street in Salem on Friday night of the State Association. Cost of the dinner is \$10.00 and the menu is beef roast or grilled chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, corn, bread and Poke Cake for dessert. Get your reservations in by March 11<sup>th</sup> by calling the church at 618-548-1669, e-mailing [pastorharlen@calvary.com](mailto:pastorharlen@calvary.com) or calling/texting Kathy Hayes at 618-918-1463. The dinner starts promptly at 4:30 pm and the play, "Alibis" by Peter Kennedy is scheduled for 5:00 pm.

### PROGRAM FOR THE 60<sup>th</sup> ILLINOIS STATE ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

The Illinois Christian Education Board will present a seminar at 7:00 pm, Thursday Evening, March 19th with Pastor Daniel Edwards of Chandler, Indiana as the speaker. He will speak in two sessions on the subject: – "The Impact of Smaller Churches"

### 2020 THEME: "WHAT IS YOUR I.D." - John 3:30

#### Friday Morning, March 20, 2020

- 8:15 AM Registration and Fellowship
- 9:00 AM Opening Hymn
  - Invocation
  - Welcome: Brother Harlen Johnson
- Call to order by Clerk
- Recognize Standing Delegates
- District Reports and Seating of Delegates
- Reports of Boards National Departments
- 10:30 AM Recess
- 11:00 AM Worship Service
  - Speaker: Brother John Hollis

#### LUNCH

- 1:30 PM Message:
  - Reports of Boards and National Departments
  - Committee Reports
- 4:00 PM Recess
- 5:00 PM Dinner Theatre by Calvary Church
- 7:00 PM Worship Service
  - Speaker: Bro. Larry Cook

#### Saturday Morning, March 21, 2020

- 8:30 AM Registration and Fellowship
- 9:00 AM BUSINESS SESSION
  - Moderator's Message: Brother Curtis Smith
  - Reports of Boards and Departments
  - Committee Reports
  - Final Report of Business Committee
  - Elect Delegates to National Association (July 19-22 Oklahoma City, OK.)
  - Final Report of Nominating Committee
- 11:00 AM Worship Service
  - Message: Brother David Shores
- 12:15 PM Adjournment

#### HOTEL INFORMATION

##### Holiday Inn Express

Standard Room (Double Bed) - \$89.00 + tax  
Suite - \$109.00 + tax  
*(Ask for the Free Will Baptist Room Rate)*

##### Quality Inn

2 Queen Beds - \$59.00 + tax  
Suite Queen - \$65.99 + tax

*Tell the Clerk, Alicia, the manager gave these rates for Free Will Baptists on January 14, 2020.*

**Please Note: The National PKC (Coon Hunters Convention) is scheduled in Salem on this weekend, so call early if you need a room!**



**Brother Howard Flota**  
1920 - 2020

**Brother Howard Sinclair Flota**, 99 of Jacksonville, Florida and formerly of Mt. Vernon, Illinois passed away on January 04, 2020 in Jacksonville, Florida where he has resided since 2012. Brother Flota pastored the following churches in Illinois over a period of 40 years: Oak Grove F.W.B, Sesser, IL 1949-1951; Mt. Vernon 1st F.W.B, Mt. Vernon, IL 1955-1957; Bakerville F.W.B., Mt. Vernon, IL 1958-1965; Mt. Vernon 1st F.W.B., Mt. Vernon, IL 1965-1972; Waltonville F.W.B., Waltonville, IL 1973-1982; Interim Pastor, Mt. Vernon 1st F.W.B., Mt. Vernon, IL 1986-1989; and the Church of Buttonwood Bay, Sebring, Florida for 23 years.

Brother Howard was born on Friday, July 16, 1920 and married the late Beatrice Elizabeth Skinner on November 23, 1939 in Mt. Vernon, Illinois and they were blessed to be together for 76 wonderful years. He leaves behind a daughter, Ida Sue Robinson and husband, Ronnie, 5 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren and 13 great-great grandchildren.

Please remember his family in your prayers.

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## **PITTSBURG CHURCH**

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

Praying this February update finds everyone healthy and avoiding all of the sickness going around!

Catching up on a few events we have had since our last newsletter... We finished December with our Kid's Christmas Program...we had a great night watching all of our young people show their talents celebrating the birth of Jesus! The littlest ones from the nursery all the way up through 5<sup>th</sup> grade participated! Following we had a wonderful cookie fellowship in our Life Center. It was a fun-filled evening!!

During the month of December, we set up a Photo Backdrop for DO-IT-YOURSELF photos. So many of our church family took the opportunity to catch a quick pic or take a memorable family photo. We are thankful for some creative folks at PFWBC who came up with the idea!

On Monday, December 23, we held a free Community Christmas Dinner in our Fellowship Hall. We had a wonderful evening of visiting with those in our community and look forward to hosting it again next year!

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 on February 13. Everyone always has a great time at skate night!

Preparations are being made for the Love Banquet/Sweet Tooth Auction on February 16 of this month. The Youth of PFWBC are going to prepare a meal and then following the meal, we will have a live auction of donated sweets and treats to raise money for our Youth Group mission fund. We are looking forward to another great year of laughs and competition as our auctioneer works hard to sell all the desserts at top price! *"Do everything in love." - 1 Corinthians 16:14*

## **RESCUE CHURCH**

**Pastor: Bryant Harris Reporter: Donna Harmon**

As we journey into the New Year of 2020, we never know from day to day the small things we can do to be helpful to someone else. I went into the Benton Ministerial Alliance and as soon as I began visiting with my friend, Jackie, she told me there was a man who had been calling for three months for a pair of size 9 ½ shoes that she did not have. I told her that if all possible, I would try to get those shoes for her.

So, when I went to church Sunday morning, Anne Sink told me she had cleaned her closet and brought to me those shoes! Ms Anne and I are always looking for a problem to solve that will benefit others. When I took the shoes to Ms Jackie, she raised her hands in the air and said, "Praise God! I will call him first thing tomorrow morning!" Ms Anne also brought eight pair shoes for the ladies. Thank for listening to this, and remember, there are so many blessings out there. I hope everyone had a very special Christmas. Rescue loves all of you. Ms Irma Lee, as you read this, we miss you and your participation in our prayers at church.

We extend our condolences to the family of David Allen. He leaves behind, his wife Dorothy, daughter Melinda (Jestin) Squires and other loved ones. Please pray for his family at this time. *What an awesome God we serve!*

## **ARNOLD VIEW CHURCH**

**Pastor: Ivan Ryan Assistant Pastor: Adam Brown Reporter: Buddy Parks**

Average Sunday School attendance during December was 85. The average for 2019 was also 85. Our Christmas Program on December 8 was outstanding. "The Greatest Gift" and "Straight Outta Bethlehem" were excellent presentations. The Women's Christmas Party was held on December 9. New flooring has been installed in our gym. Our Christmas Cantata, "Changed by a Baby Boy" on December 22 was outstanding. Our Candlelight Communion Service on December 29 was a blessing. A group from our church attended FCA Game Day at SIU. The Salukis defeated Illinois State, 67-55. Dale Hastings was honored on January 5 for his several years as Sunday School Superintendent. Mark Doss is our new Superintendent. Brother Adam Brown brought the message that evening.

*"But ye shall receive power, after the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and into all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." - Acts 1:8*

## **HAZEL DELL CHURCH**

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

Happy New Year, everyone! May we all strive to have a closer walk with God and live the life that will be a witness to others?

On Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup>, Brother Curtis presented his vision for the church in 2020. A video was shared, also and at the end of the video a special announcement was made: Brother Curtis and Sister Emilee are expecting their third child. How exciting!!!!

A Christmas Cantata was presented on December 22<sup>nd</sup> under the direction of Sister Alyssa Lewis and Brother Rusty Miller. Thank you to them and to all who participated in this special presentation.

Thursday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> was the first meeting for Moms Connected under the leadership of Sister Emilee. We invite all interested moms to attend on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Thursdays of each month from 9:00-11:00 a.m. at the church. A nursery and child care is provided. Check with Sister Emilee if you have any questions. It was a good first meeting for the ladies.

The Men's Prayer Breakfast group met on Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup> for their regular meeting. Brother Rusty Miller gave the devotion. There were 7 in attendance.

We thank and praise God for those who have recently joined into full fellowship with us. Those who were recently accepted are: Brother Curtis Smith, Emilee Smith, Patricia Smith, Patrick Smith, Sadie Phillips, Andi Smith, Brian Nitz, Amie Nitz, Zoie Nitz, Dan Gulley, Jackie Gulley, Don Montgomery and Diane Montgomery.

*"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new." - II Corinthians 5:17*

## **BLUE POINT CHURCH**

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

On December 22<sup>nd</sup> the Junior Church put on their annual Christmas program: "Bethlehem: Nothing Ever Happens Here". Thanks to our Junior Church directors Bill and Christal Lewis for all the hard work they put into this production.

We also sorted, boxed and delivered numerous groceries to area families during the Christmas season. A group met in the Link to prepare a mailing for Shane and Joy Davison: folding, stuffing, labeling and sorting 870 Christmas letters.

Brother Ernie attended a Pastor's Breakfast in Mt. Vernon and the quarterly meeting of the East Central District at the Oak Valley Church. He made a trip to Nashville, Tennessee for a meeting of the 'World Missions Offering' ambassadors.

Our teen group, "Connect", meets weekly in the home of Kevin and Beth Bowen, except for the first Wednesday of the month when they meet in the Link. In January they enjoyed a taco bar and desserts for their meal, then they held a Cornhole Tournament in the gym.

We held a very special 'Baby Dedication Service' recently. The two sweet baby girls being dedicated were Rawlings Pennington, daughter of Andrew and Jessica Pennington and Ivory Johnston, daughter of Chuck and Mary Johnston.

### **SPECIAL LADIES EVENT AT INA CHURCH.**

**Ladies Fun Night Out! Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>**

**6:00 – 8:00 PM**

**Amanda Simmons, missionary in Kenya, Africa will be speaking**

ALL Ladies invited! Come for a night of fun with Amanda Simmons, missionary in Kenya, Africa. A fun night of worship, fun and prizes followed by a Q&A time with cookies, tea, coffee & lemonade! Bring a friend & let's have some fun as His daughters worshipping and sharing together!!



## DATES TO REMEMBER

**State Auditing Committee** will meet at  
Harmony Church at 9:00 am **February 8<sup>th</sup>**

**The State Executive Board** will meet  
**February 10<sup>th</sup>** - 6:00 pm at  
First Church in Mount Vernon.

**East Central District** will meet **March 14<sup>th</sup>**  
at Pleasant View Church  
Special speaker: Amanda Simmons

**Illinois CTS Expo – April 24-25 –Ina Church**

**Ladies Fellowship  
Illinois State Meeting**  
**Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>** – 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM  
Arnold View Church  
Save the Date - More info coming soon!

**National Association of Free Will Baptists**  
**July 19-222**  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

**Camp Meeting: September 13-16.**  
If your church would like to be in charge  
of the music for one night of the camp  
meeting, or if someone in your church  
would like to lead the Children's  
Church program one evening, please contact  
Brother David Mishler by phone:  
618-201-7268. Please submit your request  
Immediately!

**Master's Men Retreat – September 17-19**

**Illinois Ladies Retreat**  
**September 25 – 26**  
**WNAC News! FREE! Online!**  
Treasure Bible Studies are now located  
online at [www.WNAC.org](http://www.WNAC.org) allowing  
ALL ladies the opportunity to utilize  
this great tool. Check it out today!

**Camp Schedule for Summer 2020:**

Leadership Camp – June 4-6  
Junior/Senior Camp – June 7-12  
Freshman/Sophomore Camp – June 14-19  
Junior Camp – June 21-26  
Primary Camp – June 28- July 2  
Junior High Camp – July 5-10

## HAVE YOU RESERVED YOUR SEAT?

Contact Derek Altom at 615-675-5262  
or [daltom@welch college](mailto:daltom@welch college)

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8 – 6:00 PM**

**INA FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**201 West Third Street**  
**Ina, Illinois 62846**



**A Fellowship and Fundraising Dinner  
For Welch College**

## FOUNDATION GRANT PROGRAM CONTINUES IN 2020

**Antioch, TN**—Free Will Baptist Foundation is pleased to announce the grants program will continue in 2020, according to Director David Brown. “As always, availability of grant funding is dependent on strong market returns. We are thankful to be able to extend the program into 2020.”

Brown encouraged Free Will Baptist organizations to begin preparing grant requests in order to meet the March 15 deadline. You may contact the Foundations to get details on the rubric used by the Grant Committee to help determine which grants will be selected.

The Foundation will award \$500,000 during the Foundation board meeting in April 2020. For information regarding grant applications, contact the Foundation office at 877-336-7575, email [foundation@nafwb.org](mailto:foundation@nafwb.org), or visit [www.fwbgifts.org](http://www.fwbgifts.org).



## *Congratulations* to Pastor John Hollis - **50** Years of Ministry!



**The Crossroads Free Will Baptist Church of Effingham,** recently honored Pastor John Hollis on the Anniversary of his 50<sup>th</sup> year in ministry. He has served as Moderator of the Illinois State Association, Chairman of the Board of Missions and served in various positions in the East Central Quarterly Meeting. Brother John will be preaching at the State Association in March.



He and his wife Vicki presently serve the Crossroads Church which they founded in 1981

### **PRAY FOR THESE ILLINOIS-BASED MISSIONARIES**

**Josh & Ashley Bennett** – “Awaken FWB Church” - Tifton, GA *Awaken Church is averaging 120 people weekly.*

**Rusty & Brenda Carney** – Tokyo, JAPAN - *The Carneys have returned to Japan to minister in the Tokyo area. They have moved into a house and are finding their ministry there.*

**Shane & Joy Davison** – Aix-en-Provence, FRANCE - *Shane & Joy have signed up new classes and began in January for the spring semester at the ‘Centre’ in Aix-en-Provence.*

**Jeff & Heather Goodman** - “The Springs”- Marana, AZ *The Springs Church has gone Self-Supporting as of January 1<sup>st</sup>,*

**Mark King** – Tibet, China – ELI - *Mark is still in the U.S. taking care for his failing mother in Johnston City since she broke her hip. He is on stateside assignment until May.*

**Jamie Lee** – Champaign, IL – “The Bridge” - *Jamie & Heather are working to build “The Bridge” Church in Champaign-Urbana, IL. They have been giving great reports*

**Sarah Malone** – Beijing, China - ELI - *Sarah is in the U.S. for the next 12 months, but will be making some trips overseas for training and member care.*

**Tyler & Kellie Penn** – Illini Initiative – Champaign, Illinois - *Tyler & Kellie are beginning a new semester with International Students at the University of Illinois.*

**Craig & Sarah Portell** – Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia ELI - *Craig & Sarah are presently working in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia where Craig serves as the director for ELIC in Mongolia and Sarah teaches.*

**Darren & Dana Portell** – Teaching – Taiwan - *Darren is teaching in Taiwan at the Columbia International School. They are building a new school facility.*

**Dennis & Carol Teague** – St. Sebastien, Nantes, France - *Dennis & Carol are in Oklahoma to raise funds for their account. Carol is had surgery on her neck January. 15<sup>th</sup> in Oklahoma City.*

**Joel & Lydie Teague** – Nantes, France - *Joel & Lydie continue their ministry to their Atheist friends. They are planning another J’Pense event and planting their new church.*

# newsletter

Illinois State Association of Free Will Baptists  
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Bonnie, Illinois 62816-0001

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Bonnie, IL  
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OR CURRENT RESIDENT

*Note to reporters: The deadline for the March Newsletter is February 15<sup>th</sup> Please send all correspondence to:  
David Shores 25 Edgewood Road Mt. Vernon, IL 62864 or e-mail to [davids@mvfreewillbaptist.org](mailto:davids@mvfreewillbaptist.org)*



**ETEAM** is a life-changing, short-term summer missions experience for students who have completed grades 10, 11, or 12. It is for students who are eager to serve God in others areas of the world

The following Illinois students who are active in their local church, have been selected by IM and will be serving this year. They need your prayer and financial support:

- Sam Barcroft** – Calvary Church – will serve in Brazil
- Taylor Campbell** – East Side Church – will serve in Bulgaria
- Madelyn Crank** – East Side Church – will serve in Uruguay
- Ellie Hill** – Blue Point Church – will serve in Cuba
- Hayden Huffine** – Calvary Church – will serve in Cuba
- Reuban Kohn** – Decatur Church – will serve in Japan (Tokyo)
- Danielle Payne** – Ina Church – will serve in Japan (Hokkaido)

**PRAY FOR OUR ILLINOIS E-TEAM MEMBERS**