

ILLINOIS FREE WILL BAPTIST

MARCH 2022

# NEWSLETTER

A monthly publication for Illinois Free Will Baptist families

**ILLINOIS STATE ASSOCIATION of FREE WILL BAPTISTS**  
**Calvary Church; Salem, Illinois - March 17 -18, 2022**

## Program

### Thursday, March 17

**6:00 pm** – Business Starts

**7:00 pm** – Christian Education Board Seminar – Brother Doug Little  
Business Resumes after Seminar

### Friday, March 18

**9:00 am** – Business Resumes

**11:00 am** – Morning Worship

Presiding – Brother Tyler Penn – Assistant Moderator  
Speaker – Brother Ed Goode – Pastor, Bridge Church

**Noon-1:30pm** – Lunch

**1:30 pm** – Message – Brother Phillip Kennedy – Pastor, Benton Church  
Business Resumes after Brother Phillip's message

**5:00pm-6:30pm** – Banquet

**7:00pm** – Business Resumes

Evening Worship after Business

Presiding – Brother David Shores – Promotional Secretary  
Speaker – Brother Adam Brown – Pastor, Arnold View Church

The host pastor recommends that those needing a motel to contact:  
Holiday Inn Express 102 Holiday Lane Salem, Illinois 62881  
Telephone: 618-740-0913

## **PITTSBURG CHURCH**

**Pastors: Eddie Donelson and Keith McDannel**

**Reporter: Heather Phillips**

March has arrived and we are looking forward to welcome the newness and freshness of springtime. There are signs all around that spring is at hand. Our days are longer and brighter, the rain is ever constant, and the rivers are rising, in some places to flood level. This morning I heard flocks of geese flying overhead, and soon it will be time to drive with your car window rolled down—best feeling ever! I love spring!

For all those who love old hymns, gospel and Southern Gospel music, PFWBC invites you to join us for “He Keeps Me Singing” on the second Tuesday of every month, in our Chapel. If you have a testimony, praise report, favorite scripture or devotion you would like to share, this will be a great time to share it. There will be congregational singing plus several specials, devotions and testimonies. Spread the word and bring a friend or two! We want you to share your talents and just have a time of praising our Lord!

We will host our skate night on March 10 from 6-8pm at Emery Bros. Skating Rink in Marion. This is always a fun time to get out and fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ as we glide around the roller-skating floor. We enjoy and look forward to this once a month gathering so much!!

This month we will begin making plans for Easter. Even though Easter is officially in April, we are looking forward to the celebration of our risen Savior. Currently we have scheduled an Easter Egg Hunt for Saturday, April 16. The details are still being worked out, but we are so thankful for the chance to serve in our community. On 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!

**The HOPE is in you in 2022!**

## **BLUE POINT CHURCH**

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

We were recently blessed with a Baby Dedication of four of our youngest. Those babies dedicated were Owen Henry, son of Bryce and Grace; Lydia Levi, daughter of Mitchell and Marissa; Brett Byars, son of Hayden and Amelia; and Madden Doody, daughter of Michael and Dalton. We appreciate the dedication of these families.

Our teens were able to go on their annual bowling trip to Salem. A large group enjoyed supper at Hardees before bowling a couple of games on a Sunday night. The teens also enjoyed a Super Bowl party this past month in the Link.

Brother Ernie made a trip to West Frankfort for the auditing of the camp’s books. He also enjoyed the fellowship at a Monday morning pastor’s breakfast, held at the Bonnie Café in the Mt. Vernon Airport.

He attended the Executive Board meeting held at the Mt. Vernon Church.

Blue Point provided free popcorn to all in attendance at the Senior Night basketball game at Cisne High School. We also held a “Team Sunday” at which the Cisne High School basketball team players and coaches were all introduced and Coach Kevin Bowen shared a few words. Afterwards we provided lunch for all of them and their family members.

Several of the church men attended an “Unashamed” conference at the Oil Belt Camp in Flora. They heard Allen Robertson of Duck Dynasty speak in the service.

We offer our sympathies to the Bob Dagg family and the Shirley Byars family. These individuals recently passed away and left behind family members who attend our church.

## **ARNOLD VIEW CHURCH**

**Pastor: Adan Brown Reporter: Buddy Parks**

Average Sunday School Attendance during January was 69. Brother Shawn Bolley brought the Morning and Evening Worship Messages on January 16. William “Bill” Brown, father of our Pastor, passed away Sunday, February 13<sup>th</sup>. Please pray for his family.

*"In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him." - 1 John 4:9*

## HARMONY CHURCH

**Interim Pastor: Kent Dunford    Reporter: Cody Altsat**

Greetings from Harmony. Our youth had a back to church bash, inviting many of the youth that haven't been able to make it the past few months. We had a total of 12 kids at the party. We had two people accept Christ as their Lord and Savior this past month: Tahia Alam and Hailey Diefenbach. We are planning on having a Baptism on February 20th at Johnston City Church. We had three new members join our church on February 6th, Vern & Cindy Brotherton and Scotty Baker. Our youth went on their monthly outing at Emery Brothers on February 7th, we had 12 skaters.

Our church had our Valentine Banquet on February 12th, this year it was a little bit different. We had a marriage happen the same day as our Valentine Banquet. Tahia Alam and Crews Marcias asked to get married and we helped them with their reception. We had a total of 96 people in attendance. Please keep this young couple in your prayers these next few months of their new journey together.

*"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me".*

*- Revelation 3:20"*

## BRIDGE CHURCH

**Pastor Ed Goode**

We have had a great month at The Bridge Church in Champaign. Our mission at The Bridge is 'to make the real Jesus impossible to ignore in Champaign and beyond.' We'll do this by listening to the musician, Word of God, obeying the Will of God, trusting the Work of God and by growing in our love for Jesus, the Son of God. We had well attended Sunday services, and our offerings for January 2022 are about double what they were in January of 2021. We also started a distinctives class on Wednesday nights, where we are using the Free Will Baptist Treatise as a basis for teaching through the basics of the Christian faith from a FWB perspective. We've had some great classes so far! Rachel and I have also enjoyed visiting various Association meetings this month. We're really encouraged by the work our churches are doing around our state and so thankful to be a part of it.

## BENTON CHURCH

**Pastor: Phillip Kennedy**

Greetings from Benton Illinois,

Due to illness and whether we have had to call off three of the past classes for Wednesday night Bible studies. We were so glad to be able to return to Wednesday night Bible study on the second Wednesday of February. That night we also had a monthly business meeting. We are still studying in the book of Job on Wednesday nights. On Sundays Pastor Phillip has been preaching about essential functions of local church based off of an article written by Clint Morgan.

We have had several visitors over the past month. Pray with us as we reach out to the needs of our community and specifically to these visitors.

Pastor Phillip Kennedy and his family attended the quarterly meeting on January 22nd at the Alexander Free Will Baptist Church. It was good to see several from the local churches and have fellowship. It was great to hear Ed Goode share the vision of the Bridge Church and preach God's Word!

Pastor Phillip and Sister Jackie also attended the Ignite the Flame planning dinner for Welch College that took place at the end of January at the Bonnie Cafe in Mount Vernon. Pastor Phillip enjoyed the pastor's breakfast that took place on the first Monday of February. We always have a wonderful time of fellowship and encouragement.

Thankful that Mike Thomas and Barb Thomas are feeling better and are able to be back with us at church! They play such a big role and we miss them when they are gone.

We are praying for your churches and communities as well as we all strive to reach people for the Lord!

### **The Christian Education Board**

Seminar will be presented by Brother Doug Little on Thursday Evening, 7:00 pm, March 17 at our State Meeting.

Brother Little is a beloved FWB musician, worship leader and songwriter from Nashville, Tennessee. His presentation is entitled, "Cultivating Vibrant Worship in Your Church". Don't miss it!



## **WALTONVILLE CHURCH**

**Pastor: Mark Wells   Reporter: Chad Kuhner**

The Lord has blessed us here at Waltonville Free Will Baptist Church. In the past few months our food pantry, has grown to over 45 families and we praise the Lord. We were able to have the rest of our windows replaced back in December and now we are looking at putting a new roof on, the Lord willing, soon.

I know that money is tight but we serve a great big God to supply all of our needs. We also had a family join our church back in December, and we thank the Lord for that too. Tammy and I have started our third year here and we have been so blessed by the prayers and love from each and every one of you. We still desire your prayers as we continue on.

I believe that the lord has challenged our church to seek 5 souls for Jesus in 2022. Please pray with us as God leads us toward that goal. The song (Do it Again) by Elevation continues to be our theme song. I have seen too many times that God came through to quit now! By God's help we can and will do all things through Him!

*I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus – Philippians 3:14*

## **OAK VALLEY CHURCH**

**Pastor: Richard Brown,   Reporter: Marie Rutger**

As we go into the New Year we are looking forward to new and exciting places for our Lord to work in all of our lives. Covid-19 has moved in and attacked several in our church. Please pray for Brother Richard as he is going back for more surgeries due to complications from his hip revision surgery. Brother Harry Thomason will be filling in to lead our church while the pastor recovers.

Several attended a gathering at Todd and Linda Barnard's Milner School for a nice meal on the evening of January 17th. We enjoyed fellowship and also played some games. Those that attended enjoyed the evening.

Sister Shirley Byars, a long time member of our church passed away on February 10. Please remember her family in your prayers.

The Geff Hope Ministries food pantry helps many families out each month. They distribute on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month. Pastor Richard and Valerie are over this ministry. It is making an impact in lives for our Lord.

Spring will be here before we know it, we are ready for warmer weather.

*" Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love." – Ephesians 4:*

## **HAZEL DELL CHURCH**

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

Greetings from all of us at Hazel Dell.

Attendance seems to be picking up after a time of sickness among our members.

Congratulations to Xavier Miller on his decision to accept Christ as his personal Savior. Baptism will follow in the near future. We are so thankful for this young man and his family. Prayers for him as he begins his new journey with the Lord.

We recently hosted the quarterly meeting with a good number in attendance. It is so great to see people fellowshiping together again.

Our Bible study group is set to begin on February 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30p.m. The group will meet every other Monday evening. The study is entitled "Knowing Jesus: Living by His Name".

We received a special blessing during our Sunday morning, February 13<sup>th</sup> service as Sister Diana Harrison, Molly and Zack sang a special for us. They did a wonderful job.

We held our Valentine's Banquet on Sunday evening, February 13<sup>th</sup> with 40 in attendance. There was great food and games enjoyed by all. Thank you to Brother Curtis, Sister Emilee and all others who helped to organize the evening of fun and fellowship.

*"And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith." - Matthew 21:22*

## **BAKERVILLE CHURCH**

**Interim Pastor: Gilbert Craig Reporter: Debi Morgan**

Our church is conveniently located on Illinois State Highway 37, just north of Bonnie, Illinois. We are presently seeking a pastor and have a beautiful parsonage located on several acres for his housing.

Our wonder pastor, David Mishler, retired last September and we need a pastor to help and direct us and lead us in God's ways. Interested men who feel led to contact us can send information to:

Bakerville Free Will Baptist Church

6513 North Illinois Hwy 37

Bonnie, Illinois 62816

or you may phone 618-316-4397

Please feel free to share this information with others.

## **DOES YOUR CHURCH GIVE TO THE TOGETHER WAY PLAN?**

The Together Way Plan is based on the biblical premise that:

Stewardship responsibility embraces possessions, time, talent, body, mind, ministries, spiritual gifts and any other resource or facet of life given by God for the benefit of the individual, the family, the church and all extended ministries of the Body.

The ultimate purpose of all giving is to build up the Body of Christ and to preach and teach the gospel to all people.

Giving as God has prospered is the privilege and duty of every believer as well as the local church. Each believer and local congregation should have the freedom to carry out stewardship responsibility as God leads them.

Free Will Baptists united in The Together Way Plan can do what no individual, no one local church or any one extended ministry can do alone to carry out our worldwide stewardship responsibility. Have your church to consider supporting this plan.

Illinois has several churches that send 10% of their income to the Together Way Plan. As already stated, this plan supports all our state ministries, (*Camp Hope, Illinois missions, CTS, Christian Education, Master's Men, Disaster Relief Fund*) plus our national ministries. Together we are better.

## **RESCUE CHURCH**

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

Hello from Rescue!

Working around Covid and sickness, I shall bring everything up to date:

December 5: We combined our Thanksgiving and Christmas fellowships and then dismissed services for that evening.

December 8: Miss Melinda had a Christmas Program presented by the Tuesday School children.

December 12: We had our monthly business meeting.

December 31: Our New Year's Eve service with devotions, fellowship and other activities brought in our New Year!

January 16: Deacons and Trustees Meeting.

January 30: Special Business Meeting to discuss plans for our new addition to the church.

February 6: Our guest speaker for the day was Brother Ryan Payne. Now for some great news! Brother Ryan will be the new Youth Minister at Rescue Church beginning this summer! After the service we had a time of fellowship and pizzas were enjoyed by everyone.

We wish the very best for Brother David and Sister Pat Shores as they continue on their journey. Brother David told me that he had tried to retire twice, so he says "I am not saying, 'I'm retiring, I just won't be there'".

About 30 years ago, Brother David came down to Rescue Church to join our Sunday School class for a walk for missions. We all had a great day walking for our Savior. He had to stop because he had a hole in his sock and it was causing a blister on his heel, so I gave my socks to him. We all make the walk that day from Rescue Church to the Ina Church, which is several miles. I wrote this because I think God wants us to have and to share happy moments in our lives.

Ann Sink will be having surgery in March, so please have an extra prayer for her. She never quits at church and she helps with everything.

*"What an AWESOME GOD we serve!"*

Illinois Free Will Baptist

March 2022

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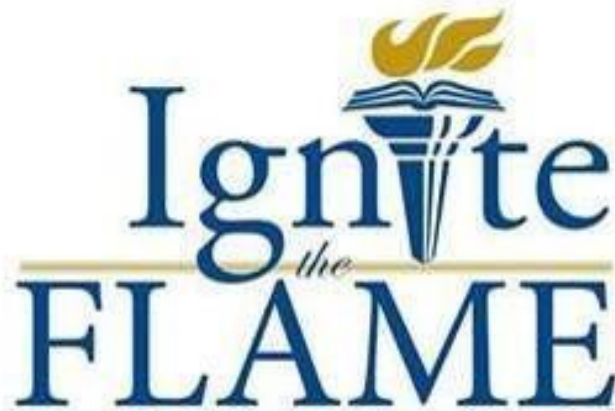
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OR CURRENT RESIDENT

*The deadline for articles to be published the April Illinois Newsletter is March 15<sup>th</sup>.  
Send all correspondence to [davids@mvfreewillbaptist.org](mailto:davids@mvfreewillbaptist.org)*

FOR  
ADDITIONAL  
INFORMATION  
PLEASE CONTACT  
PASTOR  
BRAD  
RYAN  
618-316-4123



A  
FELLOWSHIP  
AND  
FUNDRAISING  
DINNER  
FOR  
WELCH  
COLLEGE

**ILLINOIS DINNER**  
TUESDAY, MARCH 1 AT 6:00 PM  
**INA FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH**  
3<sup>rd</sup> and Elm Street  
INA, ILLINOIS 62846