



ILLINOIS FREE WILL BAPTIST

NOVEMBER 2022

# NEWSLETTER

A monthly publication for Illinois Free Will Baptist families



## A CALL TO REPENTANCE

11.01.2022

NAFWB

### A DAY OF FASTING AND PRAYER

A resolution adopted by delegates to the 2022 National Convention calls on the denomination to set aside **Tuesday, November 1**, "as a day of fasting and prayer as evidence of our resolve and repentance." The full resolution, along with resources for the Day of Prayer and Fasting, can be found at <https://nafwb.org/fasting/>. Let all our churches join in for this spiritual event!

#### THERE ARE TWO OTHER DAYS IN NOVEMBER OF NATIONAL INTEREST AND CONCERN:

**November 11** – Veteran's Day: A celebration to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the good of the citizens of the United States of America.

**November 24** - Thanksgiving Day: The day set aside each year to specifically respond to God's goodness and grace with our heart's gratitude.

#### YOUTH PASTORS AND YOUTH WORKERS

If you have a full time, part time, or volunteer youth pastor or youth worker within your church please contact Jason Janus with their name and phone number. He would like to get to know them and also plan a time that everyone can get together. You may contact Brother Jason at: [www.jnjanus74@gmail.com](mailto:www.jnjanus74@gmail.com).

## **BLUE POINT CHURCH**

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

Brother Ernie enjoyed the portion of the Master's Men's Retreat that he was able to attend at Camp Hope. Suzanne enjoyed both the Friday evening and Saturday morning portions of the Women's Fellowship Retreat also at Camp Hope. Several from our church attended the annual Compassion Pregnancy Center banquet at the First Christian Church in Fairfield.

"See You at the Pole" was held at Cisne High School. Several Blue Point students participated by either reading scripture or praying. One of our teachers also read scripture. Our church provided donuts and drinks for all in attendance.

Brother Ernie and Suzanne were away for the first Sunday in October. David Mishler filled in for the morning and Vic Ackerson for the evening service. The first Tuesday in October we again hosted a food giveaway for senior citizens sponsored by the Tri-State Food Bank.

We celebrated 125 years of God's blessings with a wonderful weekend full of events. On Friday, Jonnie W presented his comedy program, keeping the audience laughing for an hour and fifteen minutes. On Saturday evening Jeff and Sheri Easter blessed everyone with their wonderful musical program. The Victory Boys from Mt. Vernon sang on Sunday morning during our normal Sunday school time. During the worship service special music was provided by Jodi Peach, Michelle Adams, Kent Waller, a group of Blue Point folks, and our praise team. Jason Taylor of Yuma, Arizona brought the morning message.

A delicious pot luck meal was enjoyed after the morning service. Commemorative giveaways including mugs, magnets, and pens were given to those who attended. The men received a pocket knife and the women received a potholder made by Connie McGrew with the church's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary logo on them. A display table of memorabilia was set up for people to view. Every area of the church was beautifully decorated for fall. There were good crowds for all the services. To help remember the special day, everyone in attendance signed a line on a large quilted square with a picture of Blue Point (designed by Vicki Gifford).

## **ARNOLD VIEW CHURCH**

**Pastor: Adam Brown Reporter: Buddy Parks**

Greetings from Arnold View. Average Sunday School Attendance during September was 86. Robin Williams shared about Child Evangelism Fellowship on August 28. Ten people from Arnold View have met the requirements to go into schools with the Good News of the Gospel. Jolene Yancey, 78, passed away on September 5. She was Kristin Smith's mother. Condolences to the family. Our Veterans participated in Parades at Creal Springs and Marion. The WAC Meeting was held on September 14. Homecoming was held on September 18. Brother Doug Little sang several songs and shared a brief message. Arnold View was founded in 1916. Steve and Robbie Dwyer hosted their annual Hayride and Wiener Roast on October 1. *"The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want." - Psalm 23:1"*

## **MOUNT VERNON CHURCH**

**Pastor: Craig Smith Reporter: Linda Polston**

We can't call ourselves Baptists if we don't like gospel music...and many of us love, love, love Bluegrass Gospel. Several friends of Mt. Vernon Free Will joined us on Sunday, October 9 at 6 p.m. for 90 minutes of non-stop Bluegrass, Family Sowell style. These 5 kids, at least kids to this soon to be an 80 year old, sang and played 2 guitars, a ukulele, a violin, and a little girl gave the big bass business. (Thanks for her service by the way). Oh, did I mention that they write and perform all their very own songs? Simply said, sorry you missed it. However, they will be included in Bluegrass Christmas in the Smokies Festival November 17, 18 and 19 at Gatlinburg Convention Center. Info number is 919-609-6740. If you are more interested in scheduling Family Sowell call 865-924-7889 or [www.thefamilysowell.com](http://www.thefamilysowell.com).

Meanwhile back in Mt. Vernon at 5 p.m. October 15, we held a Fall Harvest Social with Smith specialty pork burgers and hot dogs on the table plus sides and desserts of course.

Then, starting Sunday, October 16 thru Wednesday, October 19 at 6 p.m. everyone was invited to our Revival featuring Evangelist Curtis Smith and special singing nightly.

There was rejoicing in Heaven this month and a tear in our eyes with the passing of a special man, Bill Kniffen. We pray for his wife as she adjusts.

Jesus said unto her: *"I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die..." - John 11:25-26.*

## HAZEL DELL CHURCH

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

Happy Fall! Trusting that you are enjoying the beauty of God's blessings during this wonderful season. We were able to begin our Senior meals once again. Meals are to be prepared and delivered on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month through the month of May. Contact Brother Curtis if you know of someone who would like to be included.

The Ministerial Alliance Fall Crusade which was held at Miner's Memorial Park in Sesser September 18-21, was well attended. Thank you to all who attended, preached, sang or helped in any way to make this a success.

The annual Master's Men Dinner at Hazel Dell was held on Saturday, Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>. Brother Justin Miller delivered the message and Danny Ward led the music. A great meal was prepared. Thank you to those who cooked and supplied items.

Brother Eric Drake and family were with us for our Homecoming service on October 9<sup>th</sup>. It was a blessing to have them with us for message and fellowship. Joe Arview delivered the special music. It was a great day worshipping our Lord. A wonderful meal was prepared, as well. Thank you to everyone who participated. October has been a busy month here at Hazel Dell with a few other activities planned.

*"This is the day which the LORD hath made, we will rejoice and be glad in it." -Psalm 118:24*

## BEAR POINT CHURCH

**Pastor: Gowdy Cannon Reporter: Mona Lappin**

Back-dating a little to include a very important event from September...Jaxon Hollis was baptized by Brother Gowdy on September 11th after the morning message. Mom (Jessica) says he was saved at home at the age of 5, but didn't start wanting to be baptized until this past summer. At the wise age of 10 he made the decision to be baptized after praying about it with BIG sister Maddie Kate while mom and dad were out on a date. Praise God for Godly families!

And speaking of Maddie Kate (Thompson)...she hosted another Sister Saturday event on October 1st. This time the "Little Sisters" ages 7-12 were included. There were 20 girls who attended and 9 helpers. The little girls enjoyed a lesson, playtime, craft time and ice cream sundaes. Thank you to those who helped with this event, whether in person or with a donation.

Sunday, October 2nd marked some pretty special events. Sister Linda Zimmerman was recognized for her 40 plus years of service as our faithful church secretary. Brother Jim Roberts, our head deacon, recognized her with a plaque and a card from the church family. The reason our pastor was unable to do the honors was he and his lovely wife Kayla were a little "busy" with the birth of their second son. *Bo Tyndale Cannon* arrived just as church was being dismissed. He was born at 12:10 pm, weighing 7 lbs. 3 oz. and was 20 inches long. He came 23 days early just like his BIG brother Liam who seems to think he's a keeper! You can check out fb for the explanation of his middle name. Please pray for this precious growing family who leads our church.

BP had their annual Fried Pie sale to support the state and national CTS group. Over 800 pies were fried at the church on Columbus Day with the help of the youth who had a day off from school. Flavors included apple, cherry, peach, and a new flavor this year-strawberry. Brother Shawn quoted, "It took a village, but we got it done." Thank you for all who helped and supported this "tasty" cause. I believe it was also said that fried pies were or rather would be Bo Tyndale's favorite food!

A very special baptism took place on Sunday, October 9th. Our new brother in Christ, Brother Dennis Dalton followed the Lord in baptism. Coming from a Catholic background, he was a little nervous about being submersed, but with Brother John Hollis doing the honors and Brother Gowdy there for support, he was in good hands. There is a lot more to this story, but let's just say...you never know what will happen as the result of a trip to Rural King. There is a contemporary song entitled *God Turn It Around* by Church of the City with lyrics that say...[He is up to something, God is doing something right now, Making a way for someone, He is saving someone...right now.] More often than we know...God is doing something BIG in moments that seem small. Praise God for Brother Dennis' new found faith and becoming a part of the BP family.

151st HOMECOMING celebration October 23rd with speaker Brother John Hollis and music by Fortress. Come help us CELEBRATE ALL that God is doing!

*"The LORD has done GREAT things for us, and we are filled with JOY!" - Psalms 126:3 NIV*

OR CURRENT RESIDENT



Happy Thanksgiving

## BENTON CHURCH

**Pastor: Phillip Kennedy**

Fall time is here and the calendar seems to be filled with events! The Masters Men Retreat was *Outstanding* this year! Definitely a time of Spiritual renewal! On Sunday September 18th we had a Teacher Appreciation Sunday and recognized all child care workers both current and retired. We had a great Sunday with gifts for all recognized and a reception after service.

A few of our ladies attended the Ladies Retreat at Camp Hope and enjoyed it as well. Thank you to Hazel Dell for hosting a Men's dinner, our men enjoyed themselves. On the last Sunday in September, we had our Church picnic. We enjoyed Worship outside on our parking lot along with a meal and games!

On October 1 we had our first Open Gym Night since May. We also started a new youth gathering on Thursday nights called Student Hangout. We meet from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. except on the weeks we have Gym Nights and or the students are on break from school. Pastor Phillip and family attended the comedy event at Blue Point to help celebrate their 125th year as a church. On October 25th we had our Fellowship with the Pastor time with coffee and donuts. We will be starting back hosting our Good News Club this month on Tuesdays after school at the Benton Grade school. In November we will have Open gym night from 6p.m. to 8p.m. on November 4th. We will have student Hangouts on November 10th and 17th. We will also have a special service, Harvest Sunday on November 13<sup>th</sup> which will include special songs and testimonies as well as a meal after Church. Service will begin at 10 A.M. Please pray for us and our upcoming ministry opportunities and we will pray for you as well!

## CAMP HOPE NEEDS A CARETAKER/MANAGER

The board of Camp Hope is looking for a new Camp Caretaker. Anyone interested in the caretaker's position may send their resume to the following address by November 30 to:

Bryant Harris 14294 Paulton Road Pittsburg, Illinois 62974